New-York Tribune.

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The Weekly Tribune.

NEWS SUMMARY.

WAR NEWS.

Department of Virginia.

—The following important general orders, issued at headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, will communicate to military men a sense of the soldierly wisdom and vigor which are now earnestly engaged in re-creating that great and important organization.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 6.—*First:* The division of the army into grand divisions impeding rather than facilitating the dispatch of its current business, and the character of the service it is liable to be called upon to perform, being adverse to the movement and operations of heavy columns, it is discontinued, and the corps organization is adopted in its stead. They will be commanded as follows:

First Corps, Maj.-Gen. John F. Reynolds. Second Corps, Maj.-Gen. D. N. Couch. Third Corps, Brig.-Gen. D. E. Sickles (temporarily.) Fifth Corps, Maj.-Gen. Geo. G. Meade. Sixth Corps, Maj.-Gen. John Sedgwick. Eleventh Corps, Maj.-Gen. Franz Sigel. Twelfth Corps, Maj.-Gen. H. W. Slocum.

Second: Hereafter the corps will be considered as a unit for the organization of the artillery, and no transfers of batteries will be made from one corps or division to others, except for purposes of equalization, and then only under the authority of the chief of artillery.

Third: The cavalry of the army will be consolidated into one corps, under command of Brig.-Gen. Stoneman, who will make the necessary assignments for detached duty.

Fourth: The foregoing changes in command will be made as soon as convenient.

By command of Maj.-Gen. HOOKER.

All orders for exemption from further levies of forage for the use of this army are revoked. Safeguards for persons, and property not needed to maintain troops, will be religiously regarded. Levies will not be made of any other articles than forage and fresh beef. Plundering and pillage will, under no circumstances, be permitted. Officers will be held responsible for the prevention thereof, in their respective commands.

—Gen. Rufus King has been appointed Military Governor of Norfolk, vice Gen. Viele, who will be transferred to a more active command.

—A detachment from Companies H and F of the 5th New-York Cavalry, under Capt. Penfield, on 5th inst. made a raid from Fairfax Court-House to Middleburg, and at Aldie captured eight of the 1st Virginia (Rebel) Cavalry and the Postmaster at Little Washington. They were on their way to a ball given to them by the citizens of that place, and were fully armed and equipped. Among them were, it is supposed, some officers, but they refuse to disclose their rank. Most of those captured belonged to Capt. Mosley's party, who have been attacking our pickets along the picket lines. They were, excellently mounted, and their horses were also captured. The reconnoissance was made under the immediate orders of Col. Wyndham, and by a part of his brigade.

—*The Nashville Union* of the 4th says:

"Last Saturday Kennett's Cavalry, while scouting, came unexpectedly on Wheeler's Brigade of cavalry, while the latter were being paid off at Rover, a little village on the Shelbyville and Nolensville road, 18 miles from the former town. A brief hand-to-hand saber fight ensued, which terminated in the complete rout of the Rebels, who left on the field 12 killed, about the same number of wounded, and 300 prisoners in our hands. A few of our soldiers were wounded, but we did not lose a man.

"On the same day Gen. Jeff. C. Davis's Division entered Shelbyville. A fight or skirmish occurred, but our informant had heard no particulars. There ...

"Last Thursday, 100 conscript soldiers ... Murfreesboro and voluntarily surrendered themselves, declaring their attachment to the Union, requesting the privilege of taking the oath. They all live between Nashville and Murfreesboro. On Friday, 200 more followed their example."

Department of North Carolina.

—A Newbern correspondent, who had just returned from Beaufort, N. C., writes under date of the 31st ult., as follows:

"The sailing of the expedition for, I believe, Charleston harbor, was one of the grandest sights I ever witnessed. The fleet consisted of about 125 sail of vessels: steamers, transports, tugs and schooners. At about 11 o'clock on the 30th January the sails of the various small craft were loosened, and, silently, one by one, in close order, they glided from the harbor. Next followed in the same rapid succession the steamers, store-ships, transports, tugs, and all. It was a magnificent sight—one long line of vessels, crowded with troops cheering. The bands were playing and the colors streaming from the masts. I counted 78 schooners and storeships, and 32 steamers, containing a very large body of troops. At dark the vessels were still passing the forts. The gunboat Daylight had reached Morehead City from the blockading Squadron off Charleston. The officers of this vessel report that the iron gunboats Passaic and Montauk, a number of mortar vessels, and various other United States war vessels were at anchor in Bull's Bay, near Charleston, when they left. The 4th Massachusetts Regiment, and some other regiment at Newbern, had been ordered on another expedition, which was to start on the morning of Feb. 1."

—A propeller arrived at Norfolk, from Newbern, on the 5th, via the canal and inland route. She reports two Government schooners ashore on Hatteras Shoals, one loaded with cattle, and one with coal, and that a fleet of 120 vessels had sailed and are bound South.

Department of the Cumberland.

—Gen. Rosecrans telegraphs to Gen. Halleck from Murfreesboro, Feb. 6, giving the following account of the recent successful fight at Fort Donelson: "The Rebels Wheeler, Forrest, Warton, and Woodward attacked Fort Donelson yesterday, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, with 4,000 men and eight pieces of artillery. We had 800 men in the fort under Col. A. C. Warden. The Rebels charged the fortifications several times, but were repulsed by our artillery and infantry with great loss, the enemy as usual, before and after the fight, demanding a surrender, offering to spare life if accepted, &c. Col. Harding replied that "he was ready for all the consequences." The enemy's loss in killed was over 100 and in prisoners 300. The forces under Col. Lowe, from Fort Henry, are pursuing the Rebels, and others have been sent to intercept their retreat. Our loss is 12 killed and 30 wounded."

Another account says that already 145 Rebels had been buried. Our loss was 12 killed and 30 wounded. The expedition sent in pursuit of Forrest and Wheeler's retreating forces returned on the 8th, having captured 39 prisoners, including Col. Canall and Maj. Rembraut, of Forrest's staff.

—Our forces entered Lebanon, Tenn., on the 8th. They captured some 600 Rebels, most of them being men of Morgan's command. Many field officers were taken. Among the prisoners was Paul Anderson, a violent Rebel member of the State Legislature of 1860 and 1862. He was an original Secessionist and one of the earliest advocates for a Southern Confederacy.

From the Army of the Mississippi.

—Western dispatches say that the Union ram Queen of the West ran the Rebel blockade at Vicksburg, on the 2d inst., at daylight. One hundred heavy siege guns opened on her as she steamed past. A Rebel steamer also opened fire, which was replied to. The Rebel steamer was crippled. The Queen was under fire three-quarters of an hour. Vicksburg letters of the 31st ult. say that the canal project is fully adopted, and that the largest possible force will be kept at work night and day upon it until it is completed. It must be wholly cut the required width and depth, it having been demonstrated that no reliance can be placed on the action of the water washing it out. Some weeks must elapse before the completion of the work.

Department of the South.

—The Rebels have stories of the driving of our gunboats back at Fort McAllister near Savannah. The heaviest damage to us, so far as they are certain, was the shooting away of the flag-staff of an iron-clad. They say that our boats had been up as far as St. Mary's burning houses, but as soon as a cavalry company fired at them the gunboats ran away, flinging back shells like fury.

—Rear-Admiral Dupont gives an official report of the loss of the steamer Isaac Smith. She got entangled, in Stono Inlet, with three Rebel batteries, adroitly concealed from observation, and surrendered, apparently without any serious effort to hold her own.

—In reporting an engagement near St. Mary's, Fla., between three companies of black soldiers and a squadron of Rebel cavalry, we are told that the blacks fought desperately, fully as well as white men would do in such an emergency.

—The Rebel stories of the repulse of our iron-clad Montauk from Ogeechee River, are proved false by the later accounts from Union sources. She was bit sixteen times, but suffered no serious damage.

Department of the Gulf.

—We have New-Orleans dates to the 30th ult. Brig.-Gen. Bowen had been installed as Provost-Marshal of the Department of the Gulf. Of military movements nothing could be made public. Gen. Banks was busy over his plans. Gen. Auger was in command at Baton Rouge, and the troops there were drilling by companies, by battalions, by regiments and by brigades. Gen. Neal Dow, who has been in command of the forts for some time back, was in New-Orleans, and it was understood that he would have a command in front. Port Hudson was growing stronger every day. The Rebels were sure that no force from New-Orleans could dislodge them. About the 20th of January two Rebel steamers surprised the Morning Light and a schooner, which had been blockading the Sabine Pass, and took both vessels. The Morning Light was a nine-gun sailing ship. The Rebels took 109 prisoners. Assistance was sent over from Galveston, and the Rebels, seeing the Union gunboats approaching, set fire to the Morning Light and destroyed her.

—On or about the 1st of September ... pany of Delawares and Shawnee Indians, numbering 96—70 Delawares and 26 Shawnees—left Kansas on an expedition south-west from Kansas, under the leadership of Ben. Simon, a Delaware Indian. The expedition traveled to the Neosho River, in Southern Kansas; then in a south-west direction 17 days to the leased district in Texas; thence up the Witchita River one day, to the neighborhood of the Witchita Agency. On arriving at the Agency, they surrounded the buildings, when the agent and a man, large sized with black hair, came out of the house and asked them what was wanting. Simon replied to him that he was his prisoner. At the same instant the Indians rushed into the house, when one of the Delawares was shot dead and a Shawnee wounded. There were four white men at the agency. When the Indians saw their comrades killed and wounded, they killed the three men in the house, and the agent, whom Simon had hold of at the door. The Indians then took possession of the property and papers belonging to the Agency, and burned the buildings. On the next morning, they found the trail of the Indians who had escaped from the Agency, and followed it several miles to a grove of timber, and found, as they supposed, about 150 Indians, a part of whom were women and children, whom they attacked, and report that they killed about 100, the balance making their escape. The Delawares and Shawnees then turned homeward with their booty, which consisted of about 100 ponies, $1,200 in Confederate money, the paper correspondence, and which is wrapped in a Rebel flag taken at the Agency.

—The gunboat Circassian, which arrived at this port on Sunday night, has visited all of the Eastern and Western Gulf blockading vessels, and found them all in good health and spirits—a little depressed, however, at the news from Galveston. The officers of the Rebel steamer Huntress, who are now prisoners on board the Circassian, report that when they left Charleston the gunboats were all ready for a dash at our vessels, and were only waiting for the iron-clads to go down to Port Royal for the Ogeechee River fight. They seem to be well posted in regard to all the movements of our fleets. They say that the Chicora is a fine new iron-clad of about 1,000 tuns; is about six feet above the water line; they think she will make a good fight against our Ironsides. She has the best of English rifled-guns on board. The British steamers Herald, Hero, and Ariel were in port on the 17th ult. The Hero is a very fine, large ship of 2,200 tuns, and has 2,400 bales of cotton on board. She probably got out on the night of the late fight there. The Ariel had over 1,200 bales. Both were waiting for a chance to run. As the Circassian was passing out of S. W. Pass, Miss. River, a light was reported, but it was too fast for her, and disappeared in the darkness. It afterward proved to be the pirate Alabama, on her way to Galveston. It appears that she took a New-Orleans pilot. A fishing smack reported at Key West that they had been spoken by the Alabama, who told them that they were on the lookout for the Circassian when she came down; thus it appears that the Circassian has escaped twice having a brush with that scourge of the seas.

—The story is that Gen. Burnside has made some remarkable disclosures before the Committee on the Conduct of the War. The difficulties that he has had thrown in his way since his taking command, from the day the pontoons were not forthcoming, as per agreement with Gens. Halleck and Meigs, to the day he resigned, were of all kinds. Imbecility, cowardice, apathy and treason met him at every turn. His orders were not always obeyed just when they should be; officers from whom more should have been expected shirked their duty; treason in our own camps exposed his plans to the enemy as rapidly as they were formed, and jealous officers succeeded in more than once preventing a forward movement at the opportune moment.

—The United States steam gunboat Circassian, Commander Wm B. Eaton, arrived at this port Sunday night from Port Royal 30th ult. and Fortress Monroe 6th inst. The Circassian brings six of the officers of the Rebel steamer Huntress, that was burned off Charleston on the night of January 17, by her cargo of cotton being stowed too near her boiler. She had two passengers on board, Mr. I. M. Vernon, formerly editor of the New-Orleans Picayune, and Mr. Thomas Steers of Richmond, the principal owner of the steamer and cargo, which was valued at $150,000 and consisted of 320 bales of cotton, &c.

—The Secretary of State has sent a communication to the Senate in answer to Mr. Wilkinson's resolution with respect to the Japanese ship-of-war transaction. It shows that the Tycoon put $900,000 in coin into the hands of Minister Pruyn, to be expended for the construction of two ships-of-war for Japan; that Mr. Pruyn accepted the trust, and deposited the money with Mr. Weed of Albany, whom he says he knew to enjoy "the confidence of the Government to an unlimited extent," and with Mr. Chas. R. Lansing, also of Albany, his own "esteemed relative."

—A Washington dispatch of Feb. 4, says:

"The Navy Department has ordered the following iron-clad vessels to be prepared for sea and sent South at once. The ships are: Keokuk, Cattskill, Nantucket and Sangamon."

Our reporter learns that these vessels are in the below named state of forwardness:

Vessels.	*Where.*	*State of Forwardness.*
Keokuk	New-York	Ready in two weeks.
Cattskill	New-York	Ready in two weeks.
Sangamon	Chester, Pa.	Ready in a week.
Nantucket	Boston	Ready in a week.

—Resolutions were offered on the 5th in the New-Jersey Legislature directly opposite to the recently proposed Peace Resolves. These resolutions declare the wickedness of the Rebellion, the latest treason of its Northern sympathizers, the loyalty of New-Jersey, the necessity for waiving all differences as to party politics, and the full and unconditional support of the Government, the laws, and the flag of the country.

—Our Havana correspondent, under date of 31st ult., says: "I have heard nothing trustworthy since my last from either the Florida or Alabama. The rumor most worthy of credit is, that the latter received four shots from the Hatteras, and that she carried the prisoners from the vessel to Kingston, or rather to Port Royal (to the Arsenal), where she is to undergo repairs."

—It is the positive opinion of Senators, who judge from the great number of written applications made to themselves, that an African army a hundred thousand strong could be officered with white men on a fortnight's notice. The blacks of New-Orleans were the first to hear of the New-Year's Proclamation of Freedom. Colored Unionists brought the news from Port Hudson ... of a disgraceful affair ... that on the 21st ult. they captured the Union brig-of-war Morning Light and a schooner. If they tell the truth, the Morning Light might have easily driven the Rebels off. There is something wrong in the matter.

—Shippers of goods to the West, St. Louis especially, will hereafter be required to prove their personal loyalty. This is done in consequence of the discovery that contraband goods have been shipped from here to St. Louis, and thence into Secesh hands, for whom they were originally intended.

—The flag-of-truce-boat New-York arrived at Fortress Monroe on the 4th instant from City Point, bringing down 753 Union prisoners from Richmond, in charge of Capt. John E. Mulford of the Third New-York Infantry, who reports that more prisoners are there ready to be exchanged.

—A breeze was raised in Hudson City, N. J., on the 5th inst. by the arrest as deserters of citizens who say they have never been in the army. Some of the Provost Guard have been taken up by the civil authority.

—The Secretary of the Navy has received information that the Patapsco left Fortress Monroe to join the other mailed vessels. Thus all the Ericsson batteries may be expected to be engaged in a fight soon.

—Rumor has it that both Gen. Fremont and Gen. Burnside have requested the President to place them at once in active service. Although they do not say so, it may be inferred that if their requests are not granted they will resign and retire to private life.

—The Princess Royal was one of the finest prizes yet captured by our tars. Her cargo must have been worth over a quarter of a million—the vessel doubtless as much more.

—A dispatch from Glasgow, Ky., dated the 6th inst., says that the Rebels, under Ferguson and Hamilton, are across the river, and are again carrying off citizens and committing all sorts of depredations.

—George Francis Train was arrested on Saturday, in St. Louis, by the Provost-Marshal, and given the choice of leaving the State or going to jail. He chose the former alternative.

—A Cairo dispatch of the 7th says: The light draft gunboat Glide was destroyed by fire this morning. The boat, guns and machinery are a total loss. The cause of the fire is unknown.

—Commodore Fairfax, late of the San Jacinto has been appointed to the command of the iron-clad battery Nantucket, now under orders at Boston, to prepare at once for active service Southward.

—Some of the most distinguished loyal citizens of Brooklyn are getting up a memorial to the Senate, praying that body to confirm the promotion of Admiral Paulding, Commander of the Navy-Yard.

—The Harriet Lane has not got out of Galveston Harbor. The Rebels have taken her masts out and towed her round the bend, behind the town, to place her out of the range of the Brooklyn's guns.

—The report relative to the capture of the privateer Florida was not confirmed by the latest intelligence from Havana, brought by the Roanoke.

—The Rebels profess to have official reports about the sinking of the Hatteras, and say it was done by the Alabama.

—The flag-of-truce boat New-York arrived at Annapolis from City Point, on the 5th, with 700 Union prisoners from Richmond.

—Gen. Pope's headquarters, Department of the North-West, have been removed to Milwaukee.

—The evidence in the McDowell Court of Inquiry case is closed.

—No Rebel officers (save medical) have been paroled since Davis's bloodthirsty proclamation of last month. So says the Secretary of War.

—The schooner Antelope, from Nassau, reports the Confederate steamer Florida, arrived from Havana at Nassau Jan. 30, and, after recruiting, sailed the evening of the 31st. She had not made any new prizes since her operations off Cardenas. On the arrival of the Florida she at once became an object of interest. The Secession sympathizers were jubilant, while the Union men went about in a depressed mood. Capt. Maffit went to visit the Governor. He was received cordially, and dined with his Excellency. The next morning the Florida's decks were alive with a gang of laborers from the town, who set to work in making sundry alterations to her interior arrangements, while lighters from shore brought on board provisions of all kinds, a chain cable, and rigging. The Confederate officers in the mean time were on shore and succeeded in picking up ten or fifteen recruits. The officers stated that there was no Yankee vessel built yet which could come near, much less catch, the Florida, for it was an easy matter to drive her 17 miles an hour. They ridicule the idea that the Vanderbilt could be a match for her, and wish for a trial. The Nashville was expected every hour at Nassau. There were also supplies ready for two Confederate vessels expected from Mobile. The Florida left Nassau on the evening of the 31st, fully supplied for a three months' cruise.

—By the arrival of the British steamship Melita, we have Havana dates to the 5th instant. A rumor was afloat in Havana that the Alabama had been refused repairs by the English authorities at Kingston, and had been attacked and sunk by the Tioga, Sonoma, and Santiago de Cuba, but it was contradicted by the English Consul. The Vanderbilt, which left Havana on the 4th inst., reports that the Alabama was lately at Kingston, Jamaica, for repairs, having sustained serious injuries from the guns of the steamer Hatteras.

—Secretary Seward, in answer to the call for information about M. Mercier's visit to Richmond, say, that "Since March 4, 1861, no communication, direct or indirect, formal or informal, save in relation to prisoners of war, has been held by this Government, or by the Secretary of State, with the insurgents, their aiders or abettors; no passport has been granted to any foreign Minister to pass the military lines, except by the President's direction."

—Richmond papers to the 9th say that Robert Bunch, British Consul at Charleston, has been removed and ordered to England. Their war news is full of romance, as for instance: "Information from Kentucky states that an Ohio and a Kentucky (Union) regiment had fought each for an hour and a half, resulting as follows: 8 Ohioans killed, 17 wounded; 5 Kentuckians killed, 11 wounded."

—We have from the Navy Department important dispatches from Rear-Admiral Farragut in reference to the loss of the Harriet Lane, and the vessels in Sabine Pass. He shows that the reports of loss of life on the Harriet Lane were grossly exaggerated ... the surrender of the vessel ...

—The ship Planter, which sailed from New-York on January 3, with 275 horses, 57 troops, and 41 mechanics, was wrecked on the morning of the 16th inst., near Strangers Key, Bahama Islands. The ship will prove a total loss. The lives of all the men on board were saved, also a quantity of stores.

—Richmond papers of the 9th instant have what purports to be a dispatch from Port Hudson, dated the 6th, which says that the United States sloop-of-war Brooklyn was sunk by the steamers Alabama, Florida and Harriet Lane, the Brooklyn having been sent in pursuit of the latter.

—By special orders from the War Department, the State of New-Jersey has been added to the Department of the East, under command of Maj.-Gen. Wool.

—The last flag-of-truce-boat from City Point, brought to Fortress Monroe 269 released Union prisoners, among them a Colonel and a Lieut.-Colonel.

—A letter from one of our officers, now a prisoner at Houston, Texas, says that only eight of the Harriet Lane's crew were killed in the late fight.

—Maine has paid $533,024 in bounties to her volunteers.

—*The Richmond Examiner* of the 26th ult. says: "Between 4 and 5 o'clock yesterday morning while upward of 1,000 exchanged prisoners were being conducted from the Confederate States Prison to the Petersburg depot, for transportation to City Point, the foot-bridge spanning the basin at Eighth street gave way while the line was passing over it, and went down a wreck in ten feet of water, carrying with it all upon the bridge, from 50 to 60 in number. The utmost excitement at once ensued among the prisoners, and the members of several companies of the City Battalion, who had them under guard, exerted themselves strenuously to rescue them, but the morning being dark and cloudy, their efforts were attended with but partial success. On calling the roll, 27 of the prisoners were found to be missing, or, at least, not answering to their names."

—After the battle of Galveston Gen. Magruder issued the following proclamation, and sent it out in a vessel under a neutral register to a neutral port:

PROCLAMATION.

GALVESTON, Jan. 4, 1863.—Whereas, the undersigned has succeeded in capturing and destroying a part of the enemy's fleet, and in driving the remainder out of the harbor of Galveston and beyond the neighboring waters, and the blockade having been thus effectually raised, he therefore proclaims to all concerned, that the harbor of Galveston is open for trade to all friendly nations, and their merchants are invited to resume their usual commercial intercourse with this port.

Done at Galveston, this, the 4th day of January, 1863.

J. B. MAGRUDER, Major-Gen. Commanding.

GENERAL NEWS.

—About half past eight o'clock on Monday night, a fearful disaster occurred at sea, ten miles south of the Highlands, resulting in the loss of six lives and the sinking of the steamship Ella Warley. The steamship North Star, from New-Orleans, came in collision with the steamship Ella Warley, hence for Havana, striking her about midships, and sinking her in fifteen minutes. The passengers were all saved, but six of the crew were lost. The ladies had retired to their berths and were hurried up on deck, and hastened into the boats in their night-clothes. At the time of the accident the sea was calm and the moon was shining brightly. From the conflicting statements given by the passengers and officers, it is difficult to determine precisely where the blame rests. On one hand it is alleged that the chief officers of the Ella Warley had been drinking freely, and were not in proper condition to manage a ship at sea. This report is stoutly denied by other witnesses, who account for the apparent helplessness and indifference of the captain and some of his officers, on the ground that they were badly injured by the wreck.

The purser, the pilot, the chief mate, and one or two other persons from the Ella Warley, state positively that all were perfectly sober, and that no officers on board the Ella Warley should be blamed for the disaster, as the lights of the ill-fated vessel were fully set, and the man at the wheel exerted his best efforts to escape the collision with the North Star, which came down, as they allege, upon her with a terrible crash, hitting her (the Ella Warley) amidships, and tearing half way through her hull. The bow of the North Star is badly smashed, and it is a wonder she did not sustain greater damage. The Ella Warley had a cargo of dry goods, provisions, leather, hay, and a large amount of express matter. The Adams Express Company had one safe containing $5,000, and a passenger had in his possession $8,000 in gold. Her cargo is valued at $175,000.

—A Judge of the Criminal Court in St. Louis decided a case the other day in which the validity of the President's Proclamation emancipating the slaves of Rebels was called in question. The Judge, in an elaborate opinion, sustained the proclamation as of legal and binding force. So it would seem that "the Comet" is affected by the "Pope's Bull" after all. The case was a remarkable one on several accounts. Benjamin Williams, a colored man, and formerly the slave of Major Thrailkell, of Arkansas (a Rebel in the army of the Confederates), was on trial for grand larceny. The punishment for the offense by the laws of Missouri is from two to seven years imprisonment if the culprit be free, and any number of lashes, not exceeding 39, without imprisonment, if he be a slave. Thus it is seen how the slave code favors the owners of human flesh and blood by exempting their "property" from punishment for crimes which are decreed against freemen, white or black. Of course the darkey, being used to flogging, much preferred the 39 lashes to the two, three, five, or seven years in State Prison. So his counsel claimed that he was a slave; the prosecuting attorney—the law officer of a *Slave* State—took the opposite side, and maintained that the Proclamation must be enforced, and that the negro was free under it. The Judge decided against the negro's counsel and declared the culprit "a free man, free by virtue of the Proclamation, and that once a free man he is forever a free man, for I know of no power or law by which a man being once emancipated can be again mancipated." It may be regarded as a hopeful omen that we find the law officer of a Slave State the first to maintain in the courts the legality of the Proclamation of Freedom, and the first to demand its enforcement.

—The recent special election for Congress in Wisconsin to fill the vacancies caused by the death of the Hon. Luther Hanchett, shows, from the official returns, the following result; In the IId District, under the old apportionment, to fill the vacancy for the present Congress, the Hon. Walter D. McIndoe received 7,070 votes to 5,271 for Charles S. Benton, Dem.; majority for McIndoe, 1,799. In the VIth District, under the new apportionment, for next Congress, Mr. McIndoe received 16,050 votes to 11,660 for N. S. Ferris, Democrat, and 570 for C. S. Benton, irregular. McIndoe over Ferris, 4,390; over both, 3,820. A full vote would doubtless have added several thousand votes to McIndoe's majority. Mr. McIndoe was vehemently opposed by *The Milwaukee News*, and other Democratic sheets, on the ground that, he being the Provost-Marshal of the State, his election would be construed as an indorsement of the system of "arbitrary arrests." The following extract from one of *The News* editorials will give a fair idea of the issue which the opponents of Mr. McIndoe chose to make in the canvass:

"The nomination by a partisan Committee of a Provost-Marshal of the United States to represent one of the districts of this State in Congress is adding insult to injury, and ought to be received as an affront by every intelligent and consistent friend of law in the State. To vote for Mr. McIndoe under such circumstances, is to indorse the whole odious and repudiated system of arbitrary arrests in the loyal States."

—The Democracy hereabout never tire of howling, whining, and yelping about the outrage of "Albany legislation" for this city. They cry "Let us alone, let us alone," with strenuous lungs, when they are at home; but when they go to the Legislature, they flood the journals with bills and resolutions all about the poor, suffering metropolis. In the Assembly on Wednesday—one day only: No less than ten bills noticed or introduced devoted exclusively to the regulation of our local affairs, and nearly all by city members. Yet these fellows will come back here and howl about Legislative interference—the hypocrites! Among the bills here referred are these: To pay the Common Council; to incorporate Dry-Goods Clerks; to alter the Second-avenue Railroad route; to incorporate Lithographers; to elect two more Judges; to allow Notaries to live out of the city; to authorize the Croton Board to buy land; to give contractors a lien on buildings; to make Loan offices pay pawnbrokers' fees; to elect the City Inspector, &c. About fifty bills have been introduced previous to these. In short, New-York City, through her Democratic delegation, has proposed for herself more than half the legislation yet offered.

—We have by way of Havana, Vera Cruz dates to the 17th ult. There is no confirmation of the news by previous arrivals. It was reported that Gen. Mejia defeated Gen. Doblado, capturing $100,000 and a large number of guns—some 2,000 or 3,000, says the *Vera Cruzano*. Another report is that the French were the victors in a skirmish at Tehuacan. The last dates in Vera Cruz from Orizaba were to the 8th. It is said that 80 persons have been exiled from the City of Mexico to Morelia, for refusing to pay their proportion of the contribution lately levied. The French have taken some highhanded measures in Vera Cruz lately. They hung 11 prisoners in the presence of the other Mexican prisoners. The cause is alleged to have been that they had tried to poison some Frenchmen. Several had been sent to Martinique.

—Said Pasha, Viceroy of Egypt, is dead. He was born in 182-, being the fourth son of Mehemet Ali, by a Circassian slave. He was educated for the naval profession, and rose to be the Grand Admiral of the Fleet before he became Viceroy. While living at Alexandria and holding this rank he was summoned to exchange it for the throne of Egypt. When once fairly seated the new Viceroy developed unexpected qualities as a ruler, and showed himself in a great degree free from Oriental prejudices against the advancement of European civilization. Ibrahim Pasha is his successor, a man of about forty-six years of age, with a reputation for practical talent, which he has hitherto displayed in the management and improvement of his own extensive property, and which it is hoped may be of equal benefit to Egypt in his government of its affairs.

—The alleged poisoning by rye coffee is making some noise in Brooklyn. Whatever this case may amount to, it is certain that rye often contains ergot, or spurred rye, in dangerous quantities. The books say that in France fearful epidemics have been known to spring from the use of such stuff in flour. It is also well known as a medicine to induce abortion. If rye is used at all for coffee, it should be carefully picked over. That the large manufacturers do this is not presumed. The safest way is to burn and grind it at home; and even then, it is not probable that, of a hundred housekeepers, one-half would know the difference between true rye and ergot, cheat, and other noxious grains.

—Mrs. Rebecca Wells, who was born in Warren street in the year 1760, was found dead in her bed at No. 201 Varick street, on Saturday. Deceased was 103 years of age, and enjoyed good health till within three months of her death, and was able to attend to all her own immediate domestic wants. She had relations in Williamsburgh who offered her a home, but she preferred to live alone, without even the aid of a servant. She lived in the city when it was held by the British, and was always greatly delighted when repeating to her friends and acquaintances the reminiscences of the early days of this part of the Republic.

—The New-York State Agricultural Society held its annual session Wednesday. The receipts for the year are $17,169 02; expenditures, $13,354 96, including $4,486 77 paid on premiums of the last State Fair; cash on hand, $3,814 66, including the State appropriation of $2,000 for flax machinery premiums. Edward G. Faile of Westchester County was elected President for this year. Utica was recommended as the place for holding the next State Fair.

—Speculation in gold has attracted the attention of the New-York Legislature, and a bill has been introduced in the Assembly to prohibit banks from selling or disposing of any specie above par during the time they suspend specie payments, making void all contracts for the sale or purchase of specie; and prohibiting loans on specie under a forfeit of the bank charter.

—The Air-Line Railway bill before Congress provides for a road to be done in two years from New-York to Washington; first-class trains to go through in eight hours; fare not to exceed 2½ cents per mile; first-class freight not over 5 cents per ton per mile; Government to have priority of business at 2 cents per mile for troops, and 3 cents for freight.

—A Washington correspondent, writing under date of Feb. 4, says the House Committee had a meeting last night, and the whisky tax was fully discussed. They could not come to a decision, but will probably do so to-day. Opinions varied from 50 cents to $1 50 per gallon. They will probably compromise somewhere between these figures.

—Venezuela, as we learn by the arrival of the British bark Roanoke at Philadelphia, continues in a very disturbed state. The forces of the Government under Gen. Rubien are said to have been defeated near Coroon, and it was feared that this General might be captured, and the war end disastrously for the Government.

—A bogus banking operation under the title of "The Free State Bank of the District of Columbia," has been exploded by the activity of Washington and St. Louis Police. The bogus bonds of the concern were left in a bundle in an irresponsible manner at the office of Mr. S. A. Mills, banker in this city.

—A San Francisco dispatch of the 5th inst. says: The Emily Banning from Shanghae, with dates to the 9th of December, brings 700 bales of drills and sheetings from China, and the advices that, hereafter, our market will be supplied with cotton goods from that quarter. Three large ships took cargoes of cotton from Japan for England during December. The quality was rather inferior, but fine.

—Some important matters were broached in the New-York Legislature on Tuesday, among them a bill to make a new Quarantine Station, and a bill to break up the Police Department of this city. The Assembly spent the evening in discussing the resolution condemning arbitrary arrests.

—A California Company has secured a large tract of land on the Peninsula of Lower California, upon which a fair quality of Upland Cotton grows wild. They propose its immediate cultivation, believing that cheap labor and native population will make cotton-growing profitable.

—Fred. Douglass gave a lecture or speech at the Cooper Institute, on the President's Proclamation on the 6th. Among other good things, he said: "Since the uttering of this Proclamation I have grown taller, and felt whiter, and comb my hair with much less difficulty."

—*The Victoria* (Texas) *Advocate* says that a pair of large camels are being put on the express from the Rio Grande to Victoria. They are to be harnessed to a large two-wheeled cart. They will carry three thousand five hundred pounds of freight, and make the trip in five to seven days.

—A destructive fire occurred at Toledo, Ohio, on the 7th inst., accompanied by the falling of a wall which buried a number of persons beneath its ruins. At latest accounts five bodies had been discovered. Several persons were badly wounded beside those who were killed outright.

—The State Department correspondence in regard to the French in Mexico and Mexican affairs generally, has been laid before the House. It will make 1,000 printed pages, and embraces the political history of Mexico for six months past.

—Resolutions are introduced into the New-York Assembly to send to State Prison as a felon any judge in this State who declines to issue a writ of habeas corpus, no matter who applies for it. Of course these resolutions come from a Democrat.

—A curious Will case is now before the Surrogate of this city. An estate of $100,000 left by Wm. H. Merchant to two ladies by a will some time since probated and carried into execution, is now claimed under a second will by the next of kin.

—The State Anti-Slavery Committee has addressed to the Legislature a memorial, praying that the Senators and Representatives in Congress from this State be instructed to secure the early passage of a General Emancipation act.

—The marriage of Mr. Charles Stratton of Bridgeport (Gen. Tom Thumb) to Miss Lavinia Warren was solemnized in Grace Church, in this city, on Tuesday. There has been no such excitement since the advent of the Prince of Wales.

—John Conness has been finally elected U. S. Senator by the California Legislature, receiving 98 votes out of 114. In the Union Caucus Conness received 59 votes, Sargeant 32, Brown 6, and Phelps 1.

—The Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Cutler, rector of St. Ann's Church, Brooklyn, died Feb. 10, at 7 a. m., at his residence, No. 1 Sands street. He was 65 years old.

—The certificate of election having been given to John W. Noell, as Representative in Congress for the IIId District, Mo., John G. Scott has notified him that he will contest his right to the seat.

—Samuel Thorne, of Thorndale, Dutchess County, has just sold a flock of 110 sheep to Bryan Lawrence, butcher, of this city, at $13 a head. The flock is mostly of the South Down breed.

—The Legislature of Washington Territory has granted over 150 charters for mining districts, ferries, and toll bridges to private parties in the mining regions east of the Cascade Mountains.

—The International Relief Committee (for the Lancashire sufferers) have thus far collected $111,457.

—Gen. G. B. McClellan was repudiated on the 5th by the Boston Aldermen. A resolution to extend to him the hospitalities of the city was voted down.

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The Weekly Tribune.

NEW-YORK, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11, 1863.

We are not able to supply back Nos. of The Tribune. Occasionally, we are able to supply a No. wanted, but when our friends suffer their subscriptions to run out and send to renew them three or four weeks afterward, we are very rarely able to comply. Whenever we are so do it, and when those who request back Nos. do not receive them, it is because we cannot furnish them. It is idle, therefore, to write again and again. We supply them when we can, but recognize no obligation to do so. You have only to renew in season, and all difficulty is obviated. We must ask those who have written in vain for back Nos., or to ask why they were not sent, to accept this as our answer.

HOW IS THE WAR TO GO ON?

To Hon. James R. Doolittle, U. S. Senate:

SIR: In the Senate on Thursday, you saw fit to express certain opinions of me and my course, which I will not controvert, and which I do not complain. Time must decide whether your view or mine is more correct. I thought, at the close of 1860, that it would be wise and proper for the States and People resolved to live and die in the Federal Union to say to those which had just voted or were threatening to secede from it, "Give us time and a full hearing before your People respectively, take their votes fairly, without constraint or terrorism, and, if they persistently evince a determination to break away from us, we will let them go in peace." I believed this the true way to keep them in the Union if they were inclined to stay or to let them out of it if they were resolved to go. You thought differently, and your view prevailed. You may have been right or I may have been; the event must decide. Thus far, I do not think you are entitled to plume yourself on your superior sagacity. Be patient, and abide the unerring verdict of History.

But you saw fit on Thursday to say,

"Here was The New-York Tribune, *claiming* to be the leader of the great Republican party," &c.

When, where, how, was such a *claim* ever made? I demand specifications! I have repeatedly *dis*claimed anything of the sort, and insisted that no one could speak for or declare the sentiments of that party but by a majority vote of its duly chosen delegates. The Platform of the Chicago National Convention is an authentic exposition of its principles: I know none of a later date, and nobody since that Convention dissolved who has had authority to add to or subtract from its creed. I set forth my *own* views in all cases, not those of any party or cabal: If they accord with those of others, well: if not, so be it. In the instance in question, I did not speak for the Republican party, nor pretend to do so. Your view was doubtless that far more generally held by Republicans. There are men whose wisdom consists in never having an opinion which has not been indorsed in advance by the party or clique to which they adhere: I am not one of these, and I hardly think you are. I hold that new circumstances, new emergencies, often demand of us original conceptions of Duty and Policy—that a good citizen owes to his country not only loyalty to her flag and fidelity to her fundamental ideas, but his best suggestions as to the means by which great perils are to be confronted, great evils overcome. In cases of difficulty and doubt, he is not necessarily an unsafe pilot who proposes to take the ship through an unusual channel. In braving the prepossessions and the wishes of the passengers, he raises a presumption that he has consulted his charts, and has urgent reasons for his preference.

You intimate a decided dissent from my recent inculcations with regard to the prosecution and duration of the War for the Union. Of course, your judgment in the premises is entitled to great weight, provided you fully understand the views to which you take exception. The brief report of your remarks now before me implies that you do not. Let me try to make my position plain to your comprehension:

1. I hold that the Slaveholders' Rebellion is a war upon our National existence, and that its success involves our National reduction from the rank of a first-class to that of a third-rate Power.

2. I hold that no State has or ever had any color of right to secede from the Union—that, while the fundamental right of every people to frame and remodel their own institutions will sometimes justify the carving of a new country out of the domain of one previously existing, the exercise of this right necessarily involves a dissolution of the preexisting political fabric; so that Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, Texas, ceasing to be States of the Union, cease as States to exist, until reconstituted under the new Nation whereof their respective territories form parts. There can be no Virginia in these United States but that which adheres to the Union.

3. I hold that the Southern Rebels, having no cause whatever of complaint against the Nation they have undertaken to divide and destroy or the Government they are doing to subvert, having never invited the Republic to defend itself before the People whom they had conspired to rush into insurrection and treason, having commenced unprovoked hostilities on the Union by seizing its forts, mints, arsenals, custom-houses, vessels, navy-yards, sub-treasuries, &c., without even a declaration of war, and having, through subornation of treason, captured the chief army of the Union and the steamboat sent to supply its needs, before a shot had been fired or a weapon raised on the National side, are so utterly, wickedly, inexcusably wrong as wrong can be, and that the cause of righteous Government, the welfare of Mankind, no less than our Country's integrity, imperatively require that they be nowise conciliated or bought off, but that their insurrection be thoroughly crushed out and extinguished.

4. I hold that the one vital, animating cause of this Rebellion is Slavery—the pride of caste, the lust of unchecked power over the persons and earnings of a servile class, the desire to consume and enjoy without producing or earning. Mad as the calculation is, the conspirators really imagined—some of them that a dissolution of the Union would conduce to the diffusion and aggrandizement of Slavery; others that by bullying the North with threats and feints of Secession they could extort unlimited concessions and prostrations to the Slave Power. From the outset of the struggle, the brand of "Abolitionist" was fastened upon every one in the South who dared to stand up against Disunion, and thus thousands were frightened into silence if not into coöperation. Union armies may march through and over the South—they may put down all armed resistance—yet no seceded State will be really restored to loyalty so long as it shall be cursed with Slavery. Were Slavery dead to-day, the Union would be restored without serious effort; so long as Slavery shall live, it will remain implacably hostile to the Union.

5. It is false—inexcusably false—that the President, or any considerable portion of the Republican party, contemplated or anticipated a life-and-death struggle with Slavery as a consequence of his election. On the contrary, the Chicago Platform, the President's declarations, and every authoritative utterance of Republican sentiment, were uniformly favorable to a rigid and punctilious maintenance of every constitutional right of slaveholders and Slave States, down to the commencement of wanton war upon the Nation by the Slave Power. If the Nation is now at war with Slavery, it is so simply because Slavery has made and still wages war upon the Nation. The Proclamation of Freedom is a purely military measure of self-defense against aggressive war. He, then, who speaks of it as "perverting the war for the Union into a war for the nigger," is certainly a liar and probably a traitor. He ignores the most notorious facts, and wrongfully accuses the President of doing what his whole course proves him most anxious to avoid.

6. Before the President decided that the Republic must treat Slavery as an armed and desperate rebel, a large portion of the Democratic party were doing their very utmost to embarrass and defeat the Nation's efforts to maintain its constitutional authority. Not only in the bloody riots at Baltimore, and the consequent breaking of telegraphic and railroad connection between the North and the Capital, but in the speeches and other demonstrations of Wall and Burr of N. J., Hughes and Schnabel of Pa., Burke of N. H., T. H. Seymour of Conn., &c., &c., an ardent sympathy for the Rebel cause was manifested. Our State's Democratic Convention for 1861, and the speeches of our now Gov. Seymour before and after that Convention, evinced far more sympathy with the Rebels than with the National cause. The Democratic State Convention of Connecticut, held early in 1862, was in session when the news arrived of Burnside's brilliant victory at Roanoke Island. Though the news was handed up to the President, he never announced it, and not a word, a cheer, greeted the National triumph wherein Connecticut's sons bore a noble part. In Congress and everywhere, while the Border-State policy held undivided sway, and Fremont, Lane, Hunter, &c., were rebuked for their demonstrations against Slavery, the Democrats evinced a general and growing desire to make war upon the Administration in the interest of the Slaveholding Rebels. Seymour's nomination last Fall and bitter anti-War speech thereupon were made when no demonstration by the President against Slavery as the corner-stone of the Rebellion had been made or was anticipated.

7. Since the Proclamation of Sept. 22d, the Democratic party of the loyal States has been still more open, incautious, and venomous in its hostility to the war. Its leading journals, with scarcely an exception, are so conducted that they may be read at Richmond or Charleston with the heartiest satisfaction. Its orators make speeches whereof nine-tenths are such as must rejoice the heart of Jeff. Davis, and a mere fraction is coldly and formally hostile to the Confederate Rebels. Their Governors' Messages are reprinted at Richmond with hearty approval. Their Members of Congress oppose nearly every measure devised and intended to crush out the Rebellion, mouthing of "the Constitution" and "the violated rights of citizens," precisely as Breckinridge did for the last weeks before he left Washington to join the traitor armies. Their brokers are hard at work depreciating Government Securities and raising the premium on Gold. Their legislators of New-Jersey, Indiana, &c., are concocting such anti-National and unpatriotic resolves as I have lately printed, and you, I trust, have read. In some Democratic strongholds, drafting is resisted; in others, deserters are protected, by force if necessary. In short—for I cannot even glance at a tithe of the evidence—the Democratic leaders and journalists are manifestly intent on demoralizing the armies, destroying the credit, and defeating the cause of the Union.

—Now, Mr. Doolittle, I am one of that small, perhaps, but increasing class of Republicans who have grown weary of this. We have had about enough of fighting the Southern Rebels in our front and the Northern Democrats in our rear. Our property, our lives, are at the disposal of the Government, and will be cheerfully rendered up for the maintenance of the Union; but we do not believe the war can be long protracted unless the Democratic party can be compelled to abandon its complicity with red-handed treason. While it shall continue to carry elections without rebuke by direct appeals to the cowardice, the disloyalty, and the avarice of the multitude—while it does not hesitate to say, "Vote the Democratic ticket, and the draft will be arrested, the War taxes repealed, and the Currency restored to solvency by a speedy Peace," I apprehend that the most earnest efforts of the Republicans will be put forth in vain.

There is no need of a long War. Just let the People of the loyal States unitedly resolve that the Rebellion shall be put down, and its last ember will be dead by next June. We have the men and the means, and can shut the Rebels out of munitions in a month. Only let it be generally agreed that we will crush out the Rebel Confederacy in the impending campaign or frankly give up the job, and we can have men and money enough. It is the prospect of never-ending War that depresses the National credit and paralyzes patriotic devotion.

For one, I am resolved that the Democratic party shall do its duty to the country in this crisis, or shall shoulder the just responsibility of whatever disaster may result. I believe the only true, enduring Peace is to be attained through immediate, energetic, and successful fighting, and that the National resources are fully adequate to its achievement. I intend to stand by the National flag so long as it shall wave; but patriotism need not be blind. *The Democratic leaders must change their course—must give a prompt and hearty support to the War for the Union—or the National cause will be lost.* Such is my undoubting conviction; and the emergency is such that it would be moral treason to suppress it. If they persist a little longer in their factious course, the Union is doomed. So believing, I speak out, though I give offense to many friends. I may err—so may you—but the Nation is not dying of your or my mistakes, but of something vastly more formidable—of persistent and wide-spread defection from her service in this trying hour among those who profess to be loyal to the Government and the Union. That they may be converted and our country saved, is the fervent desire of Yours, H. G.

New-York, Feb. 7 1863.

TRUTH versus THE NEW-YORK HERALD.

On Wednesday morning last, *The New-York Herald* exhausted its resources in display headings, maps, and startling editorials, to print what it called news from Charleston. It gave what purported to be official dispatches from Beauregard and Ingraham, and fairly gloated over a serious disaster to the Union cause in the very nest of Rebellion. It displayed, in type of gigantic proportions, "Exciting News—Important from Charleston—Bold and Dashing Raid of the Rebel Gunboats—The Mercedita and another Union Gunboat Sunk off Charleston—Four Union Gunboats set on Fire by the Rebel Rams—The Quaker City Disabled—Her Surrender, but final escape with One Wheel—Scattering of the Union Fleet—The Blockade of Charleston formally Declared Raised by Gen. Beauregard and Com. Ingraham—Important Meeting of the Foreign Consuls—They Declare the Blockade Legally Abolished—Disappearance of the Blockading Fleet, &c., &c." The "news" which followed this formidable array of headings is familiar to everybody, since it was published afterward in The Tribune simply as matter of current rumor, though we did not express any faith in its truth. To those who know the depth and virulence of *The Herald's* innate treason, the explanation was easy. On that morning a steamer left for Europe; every word of this so-called news would be sent forward at least a week, perhaps a fortnight before the real truth could follow it. The course of the Rebellion would be strengthened abroad, and possibly the French Government might take a step that would bring hope to the despairing Confederacy. No one doubted that there was some sort of foundation for the story; nor did any one doubt that, at the least, it was greatly and purposely exaggerated, but we were not prepared to learn that it was so wicked a lie—that it was false in almost every particular—that no disaster worth naming had taken place—that the story of captured and sunken vessels was untrue in general and in particular, and more especially that the story of the breaking of the blockade was a wilful misrepresentation, having not a shadow of foundation. Yet such is the real character of *The Herald's* news. No doubt it will skulk under the wing of a miserable little Richmond paper, from which part of the stuff was taken, but it cannot shirk a pretended dispatch from the headquarters of the army of the Potomac indorsing and commenting upon the news; it cannot shirk the ill-disguised joy of its editorial article on the subject, nor the pains it took to magnify the entire matter of blockade-breaking for effect abroad.

This morning we print the Union and the true version of the affair, from which it appears that none of our vessels were sunk, none of them were set on fire, none of them were seriously disabled; that the fleet was not scattered, nor was the blockade raised or broken in any particular. The real facts are briefly these: The Princess Royal, a new and valuable contraband blockade-running steamship from England was captured by our gunboat Mercedita on the 29th, but the pilot and another officer got ashore in a small boat. The Rebels, annoyed at the mishap, undertook to recapture the Princess. On a foggy morning, at 4 o'clock, they got out two rams, one of which ran against the Mercedita (a light draft vessel lying close in shore), and at the same time fired a shot which went into her boiler, whereby four men were killed. Capt. Stellwagen of the Mercedita sent a boat to the ram, representing that he was in a sinking condition, but not surrendering. The ram could not or would not take anybody on board, but demanded a surrender; the Mercedita's lieutenant did finally surrender himself, was paroled, and went back to his ship. Meanwhile the ram left the Mercedita, and got a shot at the Keystone State, smashing her steam-chest, and killing 21 men in all. The Union gunboat Housatonic by this time got into action and drove off the rams, which, at about sunrise, returned to Charleston without a prisoner or a trophy. The Mercedita steamed down to Port Royal, where it would take one day to repair her; the Keystone State was towed to the same place; the blockading vessels were at their regular stations, as usual, nearly all the same day, and were re-enforced by the New Ironsides; the Princess Royal was not retaken, but is now safe in port at Philadelphia.

Such is the truth. So far as it can be of disastrous effect upon the Union cause, it is of no more account than the sinking of a canal-scow would be to the commerce of the Hudson River. The only consequences that might arise out of it to give the least uneasiness are such as may occur abroad, where the enemies of the Union are so active and unscrupulous in their efforts to divide and destroy our country that the thousand times exposed mendacity of the unscrupulous newspaper that sent them this [illegible] is eagerly seized upon and used to our disadvantage. But the truth will ultimately overtake this Charleston falsehood, and if any of Spence & Co.'s contraband steamers go the way of the Princess Royal, let the bereaved owners charge them to the account of the "exclusive intelligence" made up for Europe in *The New-York Herald.*

A DISHONORABLE PEACE.

Mr. Samuel J. Tilden, who, from having been a supporter of the Wilmot Proviso, and of Van Buren and Adams on the Free-Soil platform in 1848, seems of late to have become one of the most embittered antagonists of the great principle for which he then manfully contended, thus prophesies in a letter to *The Evening Post*:

"In my opinion, the first proposition for a dishonorable peace will come, not from those who foresaw and endeavored to avert civil war, but from that class of the Republicans who were, in a peculiar degree, its authors."

Of course, one man's prediction is, *prima facie*, as credible as another's; but it should not ignore accomplished facts. Mr. Tilden is a resident of our City, and an occasional reader of newspapers; and he therefore cannot be ignorant of the truth that the party with which he acts carried our late State Election—as well as the Elections in other States—expressly on the assumption that its success would lead to a speedy Peace. "Elect Seymour, and the Draft will be stopped; the War Taxes will be taken off; the sacrifices and inconveniences inseparable from the prosecution of hostilities on so vast a scale will come to a speedy end"—such were the main inducements whereby votes were gained for the Democratic candidates. The Liquor interest contributed its quota to the aggregate vote; there were doubtless thousands of War Democrats who voted according to their past relations rather than their present convictions; but a decided majority of the votes for Seymour & Co. were cast, in our judgment, by men who sought thereby to escape the perils and burdens of War, and, so that the end were attained, cared little for the means. And nine-tenths of the Democratic speeches made in the canvass asserted or implied that the War had been needlessly commenced on the side of the Federal Government, and might easily and promptly be arrested by that Government without dishonor and without disunion. Had it then been as generally understood as it now is, that the Rebel chiefs would consent to none other than a Disunion Peace, we believe thousands of votes that were given to Seymour would have been cast for Wadsworth.

The elections being over and the Legislatures assembled, the Messages, Inaugural Addresses and Legislative Resolves of the triumphant party have since given authentic shape to its convictions. If in a single instance a majority of the Democrats elected have evinced a resolution to accept no injurious or dishonorable peace, then we have sadly misread. We will cite as a specimen from the Resolves recently reported to the Senate of Illinois by its Committee on Federal Relations the following: [We omit the preliminary indictment of the Federal Administration, the majority in Congress, and the Republican party, of every imaginable crime and monstrosity, and come at once to what is proposed—namely:]

Resolved, That we believe the further prosecution of the present war cannot result in the restoration of the Union and the preservation of the Constitution as our fathers made it, unless the President's Emancipation Proclamation is withdrawn.

Resolved, That while we condemn and denounce the flagrant and monstrous usurpations of the Administration and encroachments of the Abolitionists, we equally condemn and denounce the ruinous heresy of Secession as unwarranted by the Constitution and destructive alike of the security and perpetuity of our Government, and the peace and liberty of the people; and fearing, as we do, that it is the intention of the present Congress and Administration at no distant day to acknowledge the independence of the Southern Confederacy, and thereby sever the Union, we hereby solemnly declare that we are unalterably opposed to any such sacrifice of the Union, and that we never can consent that the great North-West shall be separated from the Southern States comprising the Mississippi Valley. That river shall never water the soil of two nations, but, from its source to its confluence with the Gulf, shall belong to one great and united people.

Resolved, That peace, fraternal relations and political fellowship, should be restored among the States; that the best interests of all the welfare of mankind require that this should be done in the most speedy and most effective manner; that it is to the people we must look for a restoration of the Union and the blessings of peace, and to these ends we shall direct our earnest and honest efforts; and hence we are in favor of the assembling of a National Convention of all the States, to so adjust our National difficulties that the States may hereafter live in harmony, each being secured in the rights guaranteed respectively to all by our fathers; and which Convention, we recommend, shall convene at Louisville, Kentucky, or such other place as shall be determined upon by Congress or the several States, at the earliest practicable period.

Resolved, further, therefore, That to attain the objects of the foregoing resolution, we hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States, the Administration at Washington, and the Executives and Legislatures of the several States to take such immediate action as shall secure an armistice, in which the rights and safety of the Government shall be fully protected, for such length of time as may be necessary to enable the people to meet in convention aforesaid; and we therefore earnestly recommend to our fellow-citizens everywhere to observe and keep all their lawful and constitutional obligations, to abstain from all violence, to meet together and reason each with the other upon the best mode to attain the great blessings of peace, unity and liberty.

And be it further Resolved, That, to secure the coöperation of the States and the General Government, Stephen T. Logan, Samuel S. Marshall, H. K. S. O'Melveny, Wm. C. Goudy, Anthony Thornton and John D. Caton are hereby appointed Commissioners to confer immediately with Congress and the President of the United States, and with the Legislatures and Executives of the several States, and urge the necessity of prompt action to secure said armistice, and the election of delegates to, and early assembling of, said Convention, and to arrange with the General Government and the several States upon the time and place of holding said Convention; and that they report their action in the premises to the General Assembly of this State.

Let us consider this a moment:

1. The Democrats of Illinois declare themselves "unalterably opposed to any such severance of the Union" as will separate them from their lifelong allies in the Cotton States; but the implication is very broad that the expulsion of the North-Eastern States from the Union would not at all displease them. To the *whole* Union as our fathers made it, trusting that it would be perpetual, they profess no devotion whatever.

2. They propose a National Convention of the loyal and rebel States together to meet so soon as may be at Louisville, Ky.

3. They urge an immediate Armistice, of some months' duration, whereby the Rebels would of course be able to sell their Cotton at exorbitant prices and supply themselves abundantly with the Arms, Munitions, Salt, Quinine, &c., whereof they are now in want, especially in respect to Powder and Niter, and which would be of more advantage to them than the adding of Two Hundred Thousand Men to their armies, and would enable them to protract the War two years further with less privation than they have endured within the last six months.

Now, these overtures are publicly made by the leading Democrats of Illinois, in full view of the unanimous howls of rage and scorn whereby Jeff. Davis and his satellites repel the suggestion that they can ever, under any conceivable circumstances, be reconciled or won back to the Union. The Democrats of Illinois know perfectly well that these overtures are understood in Dixie as proposals of surrender—that they can be understood in no other way. The Rebels tell us that they will have no other than a Disunion Peace; and the Illinois Democrats propose thereupon to have an immediate Armistice, with a view to an early Peace. Who can believe that a Peace sought in this spirit and by such means can be other than dishonoring to the National cause?

—Now we are quite as anxious for Peace as these gentlemen well can be; and there has never been a moment since War was thrust upon us by the traitors when we would not gladly have submitted every point in dispute to the arbitration of any upright, capable, impartial tribunal, under mutual stipulations to abide implicitly its award. We hate War with an intensity not common to Democrats, and would joyfully hail any honorable conclusion of our present struggle. But to begin with an Armistice is to surrender everything at stake, yet doom ourselves for months longer to the ruinous cost of keeping up the armaments required for a great War. This Nation has no moral right to surrender to a wanton, wicked Rebellion, unless it is beaten; and it surely is not yet beaten. On the contrary, we believe the resources of the Rebellion are very nearly exhausted, and that it might speedily be overthrown if all the National energies were summoned to one grand, concerted effort for its discomfiture. May we not hope that such an effort is about to be made? Can we afford to delay it till Congress shall be controlled by such spirits as now lead the Democracy of Illinois?

THE PROCLAMATION AT NEW-ORLEANS.

Gen. Banks has discovered—so late as the 29th of January—that the President had issued the Emancipation Proclamation on the 1st, and has republished it, accompanied by a general order, which we print this morning. The terms of that order are not creditable to Gen. Banks. The document is an anachronism. It reads as if issued a year or more ago, in the halcyon days of Federal Fugitive-Slave hunts, and of the unlimited supremacy of Border-State counsels. In short, it does what may be done by the commander of a distant department to annul the President's Proclamation and counteract its effect within the limits of the district under his control. If this is not its purpose and result, what shall be said of such a passage as this?

"Officers and soldiers will not encourage or assist slaves to leave their employers, but they cannot compel or authorize their return by force."

Why not encourage them? It is not to be supposed that Gen. Banks has not read the Proclamation which he undertakes to expound, but if he has, what does he suppose to be the meaning of this language:

"And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States are and henceforward shall be Free, and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the Military and Naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons."

If Gen. Banks's order were limited to the excepted part of Louisiana, that might have been urged in its justification, but it is dated Headquarters, Department of the Gulf, and manifestly applies to the whole. It follows, therefore, that this "Military Authority" deems himself to be recognizing and maintaining the freedom of the emancipated blacks, firstly, by still recognizing them as slaves, and secondly, by prohibiting officers and soldiers from encouraging or assisting them to leave their—employers, the last and most delicate euphuism for slave masters.

But the Proclamation proceeds to declare that such persons as are freed by its terms will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, &c.—in other words openly invited, and encourages the blacks to enlist in the Union armies and designated their employment when so enlisted. Yet, if officers and soldiers, who are the agents of the Government, are forbidden to encourage the emancipated slaves to leave their masters, it is not easy to see how they can encourage them to enlist, and if they do not, the practical effect of the proclamation is neutralized and defeated just so far as Gen. Banks's order is respected and obeyed.

Throughout this order, moreover, Gen. Banks forgets that he now has to deal with *free* blacks, and that they are just as free as if they were white and had never been slaves. He forgets, even more strangely, that the blacks are loyal, and their old masters mainly traitors. All the provisions of his order are in the interest of the planters—none of them devised in behalf of the negroes. He directs the Sequestration Commission,

"upon conference with the planters and other parties, to propose and establish a yearly system of negro labor which shall provide for the food, clothing, proper treatment, and just compensation for the negroes, at fixed rates, or an equitable proportion of the yearly crop, as may be deemed advisable. It should be just, but not exorbitant or onerous. When accepted by the planter or other parties, all the conditions of continuous and faithful service, respectful deportment, correct discipline, and perfect subordination shall be enforced on the part of the negroes by the officers of the Government."

In other words, the Government and the planters are the only parties to the contract which the negroes are to be compelled to perform, and in the terms of which they have by far the deepest interest. ("Other parties" means, of course, other slaveholders.) If the injustice of this purpose is partially concealed by the fact that its victims are black, let us suppose that Gen. Banks should issue an order that all the poor whites of Louisiana should be compelled to work for their richer fellow-citizens on such terms and for such wages as the latter and the Government might think right and sufficient, and that the power of the United States would be employed to enforce their continuous service, respectful deportment and perfect subordination! It can hardly be necessary to comment at length on *that* proposition.

It is not enough to say that the proper treatment and just compensation of the negroes are stipulated for. They might or might not receive what was agreed on—almost certainly would not—but that is not the point. Who has the right to determine what is proper treatment and what is just compensation? Who can have that right but the negroes themselves?—freemen as they are by the Proclamation of the President, and human beings with equal rights by an earlier Proclamation than his. Gen. Banks has no right to remember that they were ever slaves. Still less a right to deny them the privileges and opportunities which are opened to them in Freedom.

There are other objections to this order, but the above are more than sufficient to show how seriously it requires to be modified before it can be regarded as in harmony with the spirit and purpose of the Proclamation of Emancipation. That it is not, is an unanswerable reason why its operation ought to be arrested and controlled before the mischief it threatens is wholly accomplished.

The bill to construct a ship canal for the passage of armed and naval vessels from the Mississippi River to Lake Michigan, and for the enlargement of the locks of the Erie Canal and Oswego Canal of New-York, to adapt them to the defense of the Northern Lakes, was defeated, on Monday, in the House of Representatives, by a vote of yeas 61, nays 71, and a motion to reconsider was tabled, 67 to 54. It seems to have died from amendments and substitutes; one amendment, rejected by only one majority, provided that New-York shall make conveyance and grant of jurisdiction to the United States in the same manner as is provided for in regard to the State of Illinois; and all the provisions relative to the reimbursement of the sums expended by the United States to Illinois shall apply to New-York, so as to make her similar reimbursements for sums expended on the New-York canals. Then a substitute was agreed to, 71 to 57, which stipulated in what way, how large, and how soon the work should be done; and finally, as we have said, the whole project was killed. It is too late in the session to start it anew.

The Europa, at Halifax, brings a rumor of mediation in a new shape from the Emperor Napoleon. Official instructions, it is said, have been sent to Washington to suggest that Commissioners from the Federal Government and from the Rebels be appointed to meet on neutral ground to confer upon terms of peace and mutual concession. It is not proposed that an armistice shall be made while this conference is in progress. As the rumor comes from several independent sources, it is probably not without foundation. If true, it is in effect only a proposition to belligerents to settle their controversy by a Congress of their own. If rejected, or if accepted and followed by no settlement, there is still left to the Emperor the alternative of offering his own friendly offices. In either case that will probably be the next step, unless our Government shall seize the occasion to assure the Emperor that no offer of mediation whatever will be acceptable.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Grimes in the United States Senate, and adopted, requesting the President to communicate to the Senate, if not incompatible with public interests, the character of the suggestions made by the Secretary of State to M. Mercier, the French Minister, which induced M. Mercier to undertake a mission to Richmond; and what representations M. Mercier was authorized by the Secretary of State to make to the Rebel authorities. Without referring to the fuller statements of the conversations between Mr. Seward and M. Mercier concerning the mission to Richmond, which are said to be in existence, the basis for the resolution of inquiry is probably found in the following portion of a dispatch from M. Mercier to M. Thouvenel, which we printed on Thursday last:

"Mr. Seward said to me that I might add, if I found an opportune occasion, that in his opinion the North was animated by no sentiment of vengeance, and that for himself he should with pleasure find himself again in the Senate in the presence of all those whom the South thought it fit to send thither."

The Bankrupt Law, temporarily deferred and possibly quite defeated for this session, is a matter of great importance, especially to parties having money due them from the South. Its provisions are calculated to protect creditors against the stay, valuation and other laws passed by States, which render the collection of debts almost impossible. Dishonest debtors are the only ones to be feared, and this is the only law that can reach them. In the States that are not loyal, or where no Federal Court is held, the law will be inoperative. Under the features of the compulsory clause (in the bill now before the Senate) settlements can be forced when the debtor is unwilling to deliver up his property. After a discharge under this act, any property that was not surrendered can be taken by a creditor.

A great meeting was held on Sunday evening at the Academy of Music, in aid of the United States Christian Commission. Gen. Scott presided, and among the speakers were Gen. Burnside, the Rev. Dr. Tyng, the Rev. Alexander Reed, Col. McKean of the 77th New-York Vols., the Rev. Mr. Gause, and the Rev. J. T. Duryea. The most striking feature of this vast religious gathering was its emphatic condemnation of the dawnings of treason in the North, its hearty support of the Government in all its measures to put down the Rebellion and to make the country free, and the undying spirit of hostility which was manifested to any manner of compromise with traitors anywhere.

—The Committee on Elections in their report against the claims of Mr. McLeod and his contestant, Wing, for a seat in the House of Representatives from the 1st District of Virginia, say the District comprises Norfolk and ten other counties, in a portion of the precincts in only four of which were the polls opened, the remainder of the territory being in Rebel possession. Mr. Wing had 641 votes, Mr. McLeod 645, a Mr. Cooper 116, with 20 scattering votes—a total of 1,402, in a District usually polling about 10,000 votes. The Committee therefore report, in accordance with their custom and that of the House in similar cases, that this was in no just sense an election.

THE AFFAIR IN CHARLESTON HARBOR.

Official Report of Rear Admiral Dupont—Statements by Com. Stellwagen and Lieut. Abbott—No Interruption of the Blockade—The Rebels Apparently Glad to Get Off—Another Merrimac Failure.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Feb. 9, 1863.

A bearer of official dispatches from the fleet off Charleston has arrived here.

REAR ADMIRAL DUPONT'S REPORT.

The following is from Rear-Admiral Dupont, concerning the Rebel attack on our squadron off that point:

FLAGSHIP WABASH, PORT ROYAL, Feb. 2, 1863.

SIR: I have to report that about 4 o'clock on the morning of the 31st ult., during the obscurity of a thick haze, two iron-clad gunboats came out of Charleston by the main ship channel, unperceivable by the squadron, and commenced a raid upon the blockading fleet.

Most of the latter were of the light class of purchased vessels, two of the heaviest men of war, the Powhatan and the Canandaigua, being at this port coaling and repairing.

The Mercedita was the first vessel attacked. Her officers and crew had been particularly watchful during the night to look out for suspected vessels, and at 3 o'clock had slipped her cable and overhauled a troop steamer running for the channel by mistake. She had returned to her anchorage, and Capt. Stellwagen had gone to his room for a short time, leaving Lieut.-Com. Abbott on deck, when one of the iron-clads suddenly appeared. Her approach was concealed by the haze and moist of the atmosphere. The vessel was immediately hailed, and an order given to fire; but the iron-clad being close aboard, and lying low in the water, no guns could be brought to bear upon her. A heavy rifle shell was fired from the enemy, which, entering the starboard side of the Mercedita, passed through her condenser and the steam-drum of her port boiler, and exploded against her port side, blowing a hole in its exit some four or five feet square, killing the gunner, and by the escape of steam scalding a number of the men, and rendering her motive power apparently useless.

Unable to use his guns, and being at the mercy of the enemy, who was alongside on his starboard quarter, all further resistance was deemed hopeless by Capt. Stellwagen, and he surrendered. The crew and officers were paroled, though nothing was said of the ship, the Executive Officer, Lieutenant-Commander Abbot, having gone on board the enemy's gunboat and made the arrangement.

The iron-clad, leaving the Mercedita to her fate—to sink or not—next engaged the Keystone State, Commander Leroy, who was attacked by the other. Their fire was gallantly returned, but a shell exploding in the forehold of this vessel, she was set on fire.

Commander Leroy kept off until the fire was got under, when he steered again for the iron clad, having ordered on a full head of steam, determined to try to run her down. The guns had been trained and depressed for a plunging fire at the moment of collision, and the ship had acquired a speed of twelve knots, when a shell or shot from the enemy passed through both the steam chests, wholly disabling her boilers, and rendering her powerless.

Ten rifle shell struck the Keystone State, and two burst on the quarter-deck; but most of them struck the hull, being near and below the water line.

In the mean time the Augusta, Commander Parrott, the Quaker City, Commander Frailey, and the Memphis, Acting-Lieut. Watmough, kept up a fire upon the enemy, diverting their attention from the Keystone State, which was soon after taken in tow by the Memphis, and drawn away from the fire.

The Augusta and Quaker City were both struck in their hulls.

The Memphis was only struck in her rigging.

The Housatonic gave chase, and a shot from her struck the pilot-house, doing, it is thought, some damage, and carrying away one of her flags.

The Rebel vessels then passed to the northward, receiving the fire of our ships, and took refuge in the Swash channel behind the shoals.

The only casualties were on the Mercedita and the Keystone State.

On the Keystone State they are very large—about one-fourth of her crew were killed and wounded, and among the former is the medical officer of the ship, Assistant Surgeon Jacob H. Gotwold, who was scalded to death, while rendering surgical aid to one of the wounded men.

Most of those who died perished from the escape of steam when the boilers and steam chimneys were penetrated, and among the wounded the greater number received their injuries from the same cause.

As the Mercedita was the only vessel that surrendered, I have directed a Court of Inquiry to examine into the circumstance of the case as well as into the terms under which the surrender was made. This investigation has been asked for by Capt. Stellwagen.

I received this intelligence on Saturday, at 3 p. m., by the Augusta, which ship immediately returned to Charleston.

The Mercedita soon after arrived, and the Keystone State, in tow of the Memphis, when the latter vessel was at once sent back to her station.

The James Adger, Commander Patterson, was also towed back. She was just coming into Port Royal, and was ordered back to Charleston.

The Powhatan through the commendable zeal of Capt. Gordon, was also got ready by 9 o'clock p. m. I had the channel and bar buoys lighted, when she passed out safely.

I forward herewith copies of the reports of Capt. Stellwagen, Lieut.-Commr. Abbott, and Commr. Leody; also, the reports of the casualties on board the Mercedita and the Keystone State.

On the Mercedita there were four killed and three wounded, and on the Keystone State twenty killed and twenty wounded.

Very respectfully, your obedient Servant,
S. F. DUPONT, Rear-Admiral.

To the Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

COMMANDER STELLWAGEN'S REPORT.

The following is the report of Commander Stellwagen:

U. S. STEAMER MERCEDITA,
PORT ROYAL, Jan. 31, 1863.

Rear-Admiral S. F. DUPONT—*Sir*: I have to report that at half-past 4 this morning two iron-clad rams from Charleston, in the obscurity of a thick haze, and the moon having just set, succeeded in passing the bar near the Ship Channel, unperceived by the squadron, and made an attack upon it, this ship being the first encountered.

Particular vigilance was exhibited by the officers and crew in the expectation of a vessel to run the blockade.

At 3 o'clock in the morning we had slipped our cable and overhauled a troop steamer running for the channel. At 4 o'clock I laid down. Lieutenant Commander Abbott was on deck giving an order to Acting Master Dwyer, about recovering the anchor, when they saw a smoke and the faint appearance of a vessel close at hand.

I heard them exclaim "She has black smoke!" "Watch, man the guns!" "Spring the rattle!" "Call all hands to quarters!"

Mr. Dwyer came to the cabin door, telling me "A steamboat was close aboard."

I was then in the act of getting my pea-jacket, and slipped it on as I followed him out. I jumped to the poop ladder; saw the smoke and a low boat, apparently a tug, although I thought it might be a little propeller for the squadron.

I sang out, "Train your guns right on him—be ready to fire as soon as I order."

I hailed the steamer, "Ahoy! Stand clear of us and heave to. What steamer is that?" I then ordered my men to fire on him, and told him "You will be into us. What steamer is that?"

His answer to the first and second hail was "Halloo!" The other replies were indistinct, either by intention or from having spoken inside of his mail armor until in the act of striking us with his prow, when he said, "This is the Confederate State's Steam Ram."

I repeated the order, "Fire!" "Fire!" "Fire!" but no gun could be trained on him as he approached us on the quarter and struck us just abaft our after-mast with a 32-pounder and fired a heavy rifle through us diagonally, penetrating the starboard side through our Normondy condenser, the steam drum of our port boiler, and exploding against the port side of the ship, blowing a hole in its exit some four or five feet square.

The vessel was instantly filled and enveloped with steam. Reports were brought to me "That we were shot through both boilers; that the fires were put out by the steam and smoke; that a gunner and one man were killed, that a number of men were badly scalded; that the water was over the fire room floor, and that the vessel was sinking fast."

The ram had cut us through at and below the water-line on one side, and the shell had burst on the other side almost at the water's edge.

After the ram struck she swung around under our starboard counter, her prow touching us, and hailed, "Surrender or I'll sink you. Do you surrender?"

After receiving the reports, I answered, "I can make no resistance, my boiler is destroyed."

The Rebel then cried out, "Do you surrender?" I said "Yes," having found my moving power destroyed, and that I could bring nothing to bear but muskets against his shot-proof coating.

He hailed several times "to send a boat" and threatened to fire again. After some delay a boat was lowered and Lieutenant-Commander Abbott asked if he should go in her and asked for orders what to say.

I told him to see what they demanded and to tell him the condition we were in. He proceeded aboard and according to their demand gave his parole on behalf of himself and all the officers and crew. His report accompanies this.

The Ram having been detained a half hour or more, now ran out for the steamer Keystone State, which vessel and three others we tried to alarm by lights.

We saw a shell explode as it struck the ram without injuring her. Saw the Keystone State struck several times, and saw the steam and smoke blowing from her.

The firing then receded to the northward and eastward, and was pretty brisk at the head of the line. I set everybody at work taking care of our wounded, pumping the ship, stopping leaks, examining the engines, etc.

About 6 a. m. got things in order to stop a little steam, and hove up anchor. The Stettin and Flag seeing our condition, I told them they might be wanted to the southward to pick up men, the fighting now being over.

In conclusion, I have to say that in the squadron, where all the vessels were conspicuous for vigilance, this ship has never been found wanting. Everything was done that circumstances permitted, and in a proper manner.

Very respectfully, your ob't servant,
F. S. STELLWAGEN.

LIEUT.-COM. ABBOTT'S REPORT.

The following is the report of Lieut.-Com. Abbott, giving an account of the proceedings on board the Rebel ram and his reception on board that vessel, in regard to the disabled condition of the Mercedita:

SIR: In obedience to your order, I proceeded to the Rebel ram, and was received by Lieuts. Parker and Phyrock, and conducted by the former inside of the house, where I was received by her captain. His name I did not learn. I told him I had come in the name of Capt. Stellwagen to give up the U. S. steamer Mercedita, she being in a sinking and perfectly defenseless condition.

They asked me about the condition of our boats and the number of the crew. I told them our boats were not large enough, nor in a proper condition to carry our number of crew.

After privately consulting with the Commodore the Captain returned to me saying, "That they had concluded to parole our officers and crew, provided I would pledge my sacred word of honor that neither I or any of the officers and crew of the Mercedita would again take up arms against the Confederate States during the war, unless legally and regularly exchanged as prisoners of war.

Believing it to be the proper course to pursue at that time, I consented. I was then informed that I could return to the Mercedita.

I will here state in this report that I was on deck at the time the smoke of the ram was discovered, and in less than two minutes she was into us.

Your order to fire into her could not be obeyed, as no gun in the ship could be depressed or trained to hit her, though every effort was made to do so, she being so low in the water, and coming upon us "quartering." We had only time to get the watch to their quarters, and before we could slip our cable we were without steam, a shell having passed completely through the ship and boilers.

I am, very respectfully,
T. ABBOTT, Lieut.-Commander.

Capt. HENRY S. STELLWAGEN, U. S. steamer Mercedita.

COMMODORE LEROY'S REPORT.

Commodore Reroy of the Keystone State reports to Rear Admiral Dupont:

SIR: I have to report that about 5 o'clock on this day, Jan. 31, while at anchor off the main entrance of the harbor of Charleston, the ship was approached by what was supposed to be a steamer, but regarding her appearance as suspicious, I ordered the cable slipped, and fired a gun, which was responded to by a shell, when I ordered the guns to be fired as they could be brought to bear upon the object. On putting my head to the eastward it was discovered that there was one on either quarter, and we made clads after the model of the construction to be iron-[illegible]

Owing to a fire in the hold we stood to the northward about ten minutes, and shoaling water kept south-east about ten minutes, to enable us to subdue the fire; and then I turned around and, under full steam, proposed attempting to run down the ram; but about 6 a. m., a shell from one of them entered on the port side under the forward wheel-house guard, passing through the port steam chimney, and landed in the starboard, depriving us of our motive power. Ten rifle shell struck the ship and two burst on the quarter deck; most of them striking the hull, being near and below the water line. Our steam chimneys being destroyed, our motive power was lost, and our situation became critical. There were two feet of water in the ship, and leaking badly, the water rising rapidly and the fire-hold on fire.

Others of the squadron coming along, the ram that had injured us so much altered her course, and before our wheels entirely stopped, we were enabled to get a hawser from the Memphis, and were taken in tow.

I regret to report our casualties very large. Some 20 were killed and 20 wounded. Among the killed I have to mention the surgeon of the ship, Assistant Surgeon Jacob H. Gotwold, who was killed while in the act of rendering assistance to some of the wounded. Capt. Watmaugh of the Memphis kindly gave us the services of Acting Assistant Surgeon Brown, to whom I feel much indebted for the attention he has exhibited in caring for the wounded. Being unable to communicate with the senior officer present personally or by signal, I deemed it my duty (Commander Frailey advising the step), to make the best of my way to Port Royal; Commander Frailey, by my request, advising the senior officer that I would leave in tow of the Memphis unless he gave other orders.

Accompanying please find list of casualties. In conclusion, I beg to call attention to the desire manifested by all under my command to destroy the enemy, and particularly to the cool and efficient manner in which I was seconded by Lieut-Commander Thomas H. Eastman, the Executive Officer of the ship.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WM. E. LEROY, Commander.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Mason of the Mercedita makes the following report of the killed and wounded on board that vessel:

KILLED.—Jacob Atmes, gunner, by a shell; James Gale, second-class fireman, scalded to death.

WOUNDED.—Wm. Eastwood, slightly; James Armstrong, slightly; John Riley, mortally; James Gallagher, mortally—the two latter have since died.

The following is a report of the killed and wounded on the Keystone State:

KILLED—Jacob H. Gotwold, Surgeon, scalded to death; Samuel W. Bayle, steward, scalded to death; James Ban, fireman, scalded to death; George A. Nelson, fireman, scalded to death; Edward Livermore, Orderly Sergeant, scalded to death; Wm. A. Grau, Corporal, scalded to death; Thomas Riley, marine, scalded to death; Robert McKinsey, second class boy, contraband, scalded to death; Robert Wellinger, scalded to death; David L. Caldwell, ordinary seaman, killed by a shell; Wm. H. Clark, killed by a shell; John E. Ransom, landsman, killed by a shell; Owen J. McGowen, killed by a shell; R. H. B. Thomas, killed by a shell; James W. Armstrong, marine, killed by a shell; Wm. Dietz, marine, killed by a shell; John H. Conway, killed by a shell; Wm. Peyton, killed by a shell; Patrick Herrick, killed by a shell.

WOUNDED—H. Bellville, James Wright, Patrick Loftus, Robert Atkinson, R. A. Kook, Wm. Loftus, James Hovey, Alexander McKnight, Patrick Farrar, F. Hight, John McRenney, John Burns, Hugh Golden, R. Gould, Wm. Coffin, Moses O'Connor, Thos. Relley, John Sullivan, John Quinn, Michael Scott.

Capt. W. R. Taylor, senior officer of the Housatonic, makes to Admiral Dupont a circumstantial report of the action, but all the details are published elsewhere. He thinks he shot from the forward turret the flag-staff of the Rebel ram, but as she immediately steamed away, and he had to assist the Quaker City, he could not ascertain with certainty.

The Augusta receivd one shot in her side. No one was injured. Capt. Taylor sent the Keystone State to Port Royal, as she was disabled. He last saw the Rebel rams lying in Maffit's Channel, close to shore, with no signs of a fresh attack.

The following has also been received by the Secretary of the Navy, relating to the capture of the steamer Princess Royal:

FLAG-SHIP WABASH, PORT ROYAL, S. C., Jan. 31, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report the capture, on the morning of the 29th inst., of the steamer Princess Royal, while attempting to run the blockade into Charleston.

The following are the circumstances connected with her capture. After standing in a mile and a half, Lieut. Commander Quackenbush observed a steamer standing along the land, in the direction of Charleston. He fired two shots toward her, when her course was altered toward the beach, and she was run ashore. Two officers and an armed boat's crew were immediately sent to take possession. She proved to be the iron steam propeller Princess Royal, last from Bermuda, four days out, and laden, as far as he could learn, with rifled guns, arms, ammunition, steam engines for the iron-clads, and an assorted cargo. On taking possession it was ascertained that the captain, supercargo, pilot, and some of the petty officers and a passenger had left the ship when she struck, and escaped to the shore, which fact was substantiated by the chief mate, under-supercargo and chief engineer, as well as by seeing the two missing boats lying on the beach deserted.

By the active exertions of Acting-Master E. Van Sice, and Acting-Ensign R. W. Cornell of the Unadilla, assisted by a boat's crew from the United States steamers Housatonic and Augusta and schooners Blunt and America, aided by two of the Engineers of the prize, she was got off without sustaining any injury. There not being sufficient coal on board the Princess Royal to send her North, she was ordered by the senior officer to this port, to obtain a supply. No papers pertaining to the ship or cargo were found on board of her at the time, except the shipping articles and a log-book, but, after her arrival here, Acting-Master Van Sice of the Unadilla, the officer in charge of the prize, discovered accidentally, in looking over the side, certain papers, which had lodged in the fender in the attempt to throw them overboard.

These refer principally to the cargo, and with the papers before mentioned (which were all that were found on board) will be forwarded to the United States District Judge at Philadelphia. The under supercargo, Hoxley; the chief mate, Shaw; the captain's clerk, a young man named Hacksley, whose father is said to be interested in the cargo; two engineers and several of the firemen, go North in the prize. The rest of the crew will be sent by the first opportunity.

I desire to call the attention of the Department to the fact that in this prize are two complete engines, said to be of great power, and intended for iron-clads.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
S. F. DUPONT,
Rear-Admiral Commanding South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES, *Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.*

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

An Unsuccessful Trip—Naval Engagement in Ogeechee River—The Monitor Montauk and a fleet of Gunboats engage a Rebel Fort—Result of the First Day's Work—The Monitor's Invulnerability Established—The Main Attack about to be made—Condition of Fort Pulaski—Loss of a valuable Foreign Officer, &c.

From Our Special Correspondent.

PORT ROYAL, Jan. 23, 1863.

Being anxious to witness the first trial of relative offensive and defensive efficiency of the Monitor Montauk I knew to be about being made in the Ogeechee River, I accepted a kind invitation of Col. Barton, of the 48th New-York Volunteers, Commanding at Fort Pulaski, to accompany him upon an excursion to the expected scene of action on the steamer Mattano.

We left this port for Fort Pulaski evening before last, and yesterday morning set out to Ogeechee River by the inland passage. We passed through Lazaretto Creek, Tybee River and Warsaw Sound, into the net of narrow water courses extending through what is known as Romney Marsh, and connecting Warsaw with Ossabaw Sound. Unfortunately, our pilot had never made the passage before, and after an hour's run at a venture, we found ourselves in the midst of the marsh, with the banks of the inlet we had been following narrowing so closely that the boat could proceed no further. After a good deal of delay and exertion we extricated ourselves from the precarious situation into which we had worked ourselves; but it had grown so late in the day, in the meantime, that we were compelled to return to the Fort without having accomplished the object of our trip. The disappointment was the greater as we had heard continuous firing of heavy ordnance during the morning, and even saw the puffs of smoke of powder ascending after each discharge.

[illegible] o'clock in the morning the armed [illegible] learned the following particulars [illegible] tions.

The Montauk arrived in Ossabaw Sound on Sunday. On Monday she entered Ogeechee Point, followed by the gunboats Seneca, Wissahicken, Dawn, Daffadil, and the mortar-schooner Williams. The fleet having come in sight of the enemy's works, spent the afternoon in reconnoitering and getting ready for the work of the next day.

With daybreak yesterday the vessels moved on their range, and about 7 o'clock the combat was opened by a shot from the enemy.

The Rebel fort is situated some ten miles from Ossabaw Landing, at "Jennison's Point," on the left bank, close to and about ten feet above the surface of the river. The river is about 150 yards wide, and the channel obstructed at a distance of a mile from the fort by a close row of piles. The Montauk approached within a hundred yards of the obstructions, while the other vessels lay in line some distance to the rear of her.

The firing was kept up on our side until 2 p. m., with short intermissions. The Rebel work was discovered to mount thirteen guns of various calibers, in casemates, all of which at first responded to our fleet. About 9 o'clock those became silent, and at noon only seven were worked. Toward the close of our firing, the enemy's responses were confined to a single gun.

Our vessels stopped firing in order to save ammunition for closer work. Our officers are certain of having disabled several if not most of the enemy's guns; but as the object of the attack was not only to draw the Rebels out of the fort, but also to cut out or destroy the Nashville, and as the latter portion of the programme could not be carried out at once, on account of the obstructions in the channel, it was deemed best to discontinue the attack until the piles could be removed and a way opened to the Monitor to within close range of the fort as well as to the Nashville.

The work of removing the piles was commenced last night, and Capt. Worden was confident of being able to pass the obstructions by to-morrow morning, when he will bring his vessel as close to the fort as her draft will allow. That the tremendous projectiles of his guns will speedily demolish the work he also considers certain.

The guns of the Montauk worked to the entire satisfaction of her commander, as did the turret machinery. The last doubt as to her imperviousness has been done away with by this, her first trial. Thirteen shells and solid shots struck her deck, sides and turret without making any impression, beyond hardly perceptible dents. So slight was the effect of the enemy's missiles that her crew did not know that she had been struck until they examined her after the combat was over. None of the wooden vessels were struck, nor is there a single casualty reported in the fleet.

All of the above named vessels were more or less engaged in the fight.

The Nashville was plainly seen from our fleet lying some five miles up the Ogeechee river, near the bridge of the Savannah and Gulf railroad. She is painted with lead color. A white native that made his way to the fleet, says that she is fully fitted out as an armed vessel.

The ram "Atlanta," late the steamer Fingal, is now positively known to be in St. Augustine Creek.

Capt. Worden hopes she will take up the gauntlet he has thrown out to her.

The Daffadil returned this morning to the Ogeechee with additional supplies of ammunition.

Fort Pulaski has been put in better condition than it ever was by its present commander and garrison (48th New-York and a battalion of 3d Rhode Island Artillery, Capt. Gould, commanding.) Its armament now consists of nearly 80 guns of the heaviest and most approved description.

This Department is about being deprived of the services of one of its ablest, most faithful and estimmed officers, Lieut. Rosander of the Sweedish Army, who entered the Union service about eighteen months ago as a Lieutenant of Rhode Island artillery, is compelled by the expiration of his leave of absence to return home. He leaves with great regret, but with no more than is felt at his departure by all that came in contact with him officially and otherwise. Gen. Hunter was very loath to lose so valuable an officer, but, of course, could not refuse to accept his resignation. The active symbathy manifested by Lieut. Rosander for the cause of our country will never be forgotten by those that knew him. May his career at home be as successful as his service here was honorable in the highest degree.

The practice of feeding the destitute wives and children of Rebel soldiers, residents of Fernandina and St. Augustine, Fla., at Government expense will hereafter be discontinued, as it has frequently resulted it short commons to our own soldiers garrisoning those towns.

The gunboat Union arrived this morning, with New-York dates to the 2d.

The weather is again unusually cold and boisterous.

Contrary to the expectation, no additional reenforcements have as yet arrived.

The steamship Matanzas sailed this afternoon for Key West.

29th, 6 p. m.—The Circassian was expected to sail this morning for New-York, but was detained by the naval authorities, it is supposed, to take North the official account of 3-day's work of the Montauk in Ogeechee River.

Reports of heavy firing have been heard all day. During the morning they were irregular, but in the afternoon they reached us at regular intervals of from seven to ten minutes for several hours. They ceased at about 4 p.m. Only the heavy ordnance of the Monitor was evidently at work on our side. The dispatch-boat from the fleet is expected to reach the naval headquarters in the course of the night, but as the Circassian sails with daybreak, and the naval authorities seem to be disposed to withhold the intelligence likely to be received by them from the representatives of the press, I shall probably not be able to repot the result of the combat.

The steamer Matanzas will take to Key West the 90th New-York, Col. Morgan, to relieve the 47th Pennsylvania. Col Morgan's regiment was ordered away from Key West but a short time since by the old *régime* in this Department on account of his thorough Anti Slavery administration. Gen. Hunter returns him to the post he has so creditably commanded at the earliest possible opportunity.

FROM NEW-ORLEANS.

Arrival of Texas Refugees at New Orleans—The Story of the Escape of Eleven United States Soldiers—A Fugitive's Diary.

From Our Special Correspondent.

NEW-ORLEANS, Feb. 1, 1863.

Previous advices have, I suppose, informed you of the arrival of the propeller Kensington off this port, from the Rio Grande, whither it was sent to accomplish the removal of three hundred Texan exiles—men, women and children. The vessel reached this place on the evening of the 29th of January. Among the more interesting of the party were 11 soldiers belonging to the 8th U. S. regular infantry, who, in conjunction with their comrades, were surrendered to the Rebels by the treachery of Twiggs, nearly two years ago. The story of the escape of the poor fellows is well worth relating.

Their names are as follows:

Sergeants Charles Douglas, Wisconsin, and Ira S. Coan, New-York; Corporals Charles Worch, German, Ed. Waller, Englishman; Musician Robert Sanderson, New-York City; Privates Francis Brett, Wisconsin, Stephen Connor, Illinois, Samuel Wilson, Pennsylvania, John Swart, New-York, Henry Burns, Michigan, Ernest Ceider, Saxony.

When taken prisoners, on May 9, 1861, at St. Lucas Springs, 16 miles west of San Antonio, they were 319 in number, commanded by Lieut.-Col. J. V. D. Reeve of their regiment, and on their march toward the coast, expecting to quit the State by the port of Indianola, a proffer of safe transit having been tendered them by Twiggs, the traitor. Learning that a large body of Confederates was advancing toward them, they struck tents at 1 a. m., and pushed for the city. At daybreak upward of 2,100 Texans appeared, led by Gen. Van Dorn. Not knowing the force of the enemy, our men arranged their baggage wagons as a defense in the *corral*, and awaited the onset. The Rebels, with 700 cavalry and two batteries, soon filed to the right and left of the road, and formed in order of battle. Presently a Col. Wilcox appeared with a flag of truce, demanding an unconditional surrender, which was reluctantly acceded to by Col. Reeve, after Lieut. Bliss had been allowed to ascertain the extent of the superiority of the enemy's force. Accordingly the 317 soldiers were marched into San Antonio under convoy of the Rebels, and there stacked their arms as prisoners.

After ten days guarded sojourn in camp, five miles from town, at the head of the San Antonio River, and twenty in that city, they consented to give their paroles not to leave the county or to serve again in the United States Army until duly exchanged. Since then their experience has been of the promiscuous order. They were at Camp Van [illegible] der charge of a company of cavalry [illegible] San Antonio, until till the beginning of December, at which place the Rebels effected a division of their captives on the principle of assigning each of the seven Union companies to a separate post. Thus, Co. C was sent to Camp Verde, Co. H to McChief, Co. I to Colorado, Cos. B and K to Fort Chadburn, Co. F to Camp Cooper, and Co. E to Fort Belknap. This plan lasted until April, 1862, when six companies were brought together at Fort Mason, 85 miles from San Antonio, where they continued until July, only Co. C remaining at Camp Verde, to be, however, reunited with the rest at San Antonio, the center about which they seem to have revolved.

From May to September, 1861, they declare they were not badly treated, being suppied with fresh beef and regular rations. From the latter date to the close of the year they experienced a direful falling off in gastronomic luxuries, getting very little salt or sugar, and less vegetables, to be subsequently renewed and to fail again, according to the resources of their captors. It was a weary and monotonous existence, and having endured it for seventeen dreary months these eleven men, now in New-Orleans, resolved to escape and accomplished it

They left in four parties, crawling out after dark, between guards. I shall condense the narrative of each to a mere skeleton, intending presently to allow each hero to be his own historian.

Sergeant Coan, with two others, possessing, at starting, four pounds of corn bread each, mixed with salt and water, and $6 as a common fund, succeeded in reaching Monterey on the 18th of October, 1862, remaining there till January 10, when the United States Consul sent them to Bagdad, on the Rio Grande, from which place they came to this port on the Kensington.

The second party, originally 14 in number, left on the same night as the first. Ten were almost immediately retaken, and punished by confinement in double irons at San Antonio. The remaining four, Douglas, Sandeman, Swart and Ceider, followed nearly the same route as Coan's party, only 60 miles to the southward. They got to Monterey during the second week of December.

The third party, comprising Brett and Burns, fled on the 9th of November, 1862, into a wood, lying concealed all the following day in a tree, and being supplied with food by a woman, who brought them cornmeal. Marching by night and keeping hidden by day, (a precaution generally adopted by the rest of the fugitives), they reached Brownsville in 12 days, and Monterey just before Christmas.

The fourth party, Wilson and Connor, (completing the 11,) seized the opportunity afforded by the removal of the camp of their captors from San Antonio to Fort Birney, 25 miles distance, to effect their escape, not being missed in the confusion.

Returning at night to the abandoned camp for the purpose of digging up some fifty pounds of provisions which they had secreted and buried, they followed the route of the first party, arriving at the appointed goal, Matamoras, on the 22d of December, 1862.

Of course all of the men reached their destination in but a sorry plight, there to be kindly cared for by the United States Consul, who clothed and fed them. They add the following particulars about those of their comrades whom they left behind:

Steward Bergman and Privates McCarty and Wassenberger died in captivity.

Sergeants Burke and Hill were killed while attempting to escape, their bodies being discovered by their comrades at about 20 miles above Brownsville, with the faces mutilated to prevent recognition. Others, names unknown, shared a similar fate.

The survivors are yet at Fort Birney, 35 miles from San Antonio. The officers of the regiment are as follows: Col. I. D. Reeve, commander; Capt. E. D. Blake; Major Jas. V. Romford; Dr. Peters; Lieut. Freedley, acting Quartermaster; 2d Lieut. M. Lazelle; Lieuts. Peck, Jones, Van Horne, Frank, and Bliss. All these gentlemen, unless paroled, released, or dead, are still prisoners.

I now present a portion of the narrative of Sergeant Coan, a diary written by the way:

"I am about to give an account of the escape of myself, Corp. Chas. Worch, and Ed. Waller, of Co. I, 8th Regiment U. S. Infantry, from Texas:

"*Sept.* 15, 1862.—We left our camp at the head of the San Antonio River, which was guarded by Taylor's battalion of cavalry, over night, passed through the town, and marched as far as St. Lucas Springs, where we arrived at daybreak next morning, and to our great displeasure found a camp of Rangers there. We were obliged to venture down to the spring for some water. While filling our canteens we were hailed by a "Who goes there?" to which we replied, "Friends," and passed on without further notice. We then made the best of our way to the bushes in the neighborhood. There we lay until dark, when we again set out.

"*16th.*—Left the road to our right and took a south-westerly course for the Rio Grande. In about three hours' march we came to a pool of water on the prairie, where we stopped and ate for the first time since we started. Then we marched all night, crossing the river by wading, about five miles below Castroville, and at daylight crawled into a thicket for safety.

"17th.—To-day we lay concealed, and at night continued our journey, traveling until the heat of the sun drove us to the shade of a tree on the prairie.

"18th.—Lay in the shade of a tree until about 3 p. m., when we were obliged, for want of water, to push on. In an hour we came to a lagooon, where we stopped and had lunch. We then resumed our march, which lay through a cluster of hills, thickly covered with underbrush, until we struck a road leading exactly in our course, which we followed for 12 miles. Then we crossed the trio and continued on until 9 a. m., when we came to a pool of rain-water. Our food on leaving San Antonio consisted of two small corn-cakes, each not weighing more than three pounds, and a piece of wheat bread, about one pound each.

"19th.—Started at 3 o'clock, and traveled till dark, when we found impossible to march, there being many prickly pears and thorns to impede us. So we stopped for the night by the side of a hill, and were nearly devoured there by huge musketoes.

"20th—Started at dawn and traveled all day through a dense forest of prickly pears and thorns, until sunset, when we came to a halt at a pond of water on the prairie, and camped there for the night.

"21st—Same as the previous day until we came to the Nueces River, about half an hour before sunset, and were glad to find ourselves so near the Rio Grande. I succeeded in catching four very fine catfish, which were a great addition to our stock of provisions.

"22d—Started at 7 and traveled through a dry waste of country with scarcely any vegetation except the cactus. Suffered a little for want of water, having but one canteen between three. Very much fatigued with traveling through brush and sand, with very little to eat. We have already been obliged to eat the fruit of the cactus.

"23d—Marching hard all day, and obliged to pass another day on Texas soil, and take another supper of prickly pears. A rolling prairie country, better watered than those previously mentioned.

"24th—On the tramp at dawn, and after five or six miles, to our great joy discovered a house, that of a Mexican ranchero, where we procured a little dried beef, milk and cheese. Here we learned that we were within four miles of Fort Duncan, and determined to cross the river, but when we arrived there we found it so high that it could not be done. We then concealed ourselves for the day, and at night passed the post and crossed below it at a more convenient place.

"25th—Twelve miles below the fort, on the river, at a Mexican ranch, where we procured some milk and tortillas. We then hired a Mexican to ferry us over in a boat made of the skin of an ox, of the size of a wash-tub; only one could be ferried at a time with the Mexican swimming at the side. The river being high and running very swift, the craft was upset twice during my passage and that of Corporal Worch. Three rangers from Fort Duncan came riding up and demanded Worch's passport as he was embarking a second time. He told them we had taken it over with us, when they demanded $5 to let him go. He promised to send it back by the ferryman, but when he was over we concluded to let them whistle for the money.

"26th—Traveled all night and arrived at Presideo, very tired and hungry. Purchased 25 pounds of flour and some sugar, came to a halt close to the town and rested all day.

"27th. Marched till 11 a. m., being received with hospitality at two Mexican houses.

"It would be tiring your patience to enter into a long description of our march to Monterey. I will merely give a few sketches of it. In one place we were obliged to make 50 miles without water. . . . We altered our marches by starting before daylight and marching till 8 or 9, laying over during the heat of the day till evening. On the morning of October 7, we arrived at Monterey and went to the United States Consul to ask assistance, which he readily gave to the amount of $10. We then purchased the necessary articles and set out for Matamoras."

The sergeant and his companions are going to New-York soon. I bespeak a welcome for them.

Forty thousand dollars worth of quinine, chloroform, drugs, &c., was captured at 3 a. m. this day, [illegible] yond Hickox's Landing, [illegible] being smuggled across Lake Pont-[illegible]

Gen. Hamilton and Texas—How the Rebels Obtain their Supplies—The Mexican Frontier and Ports—The Blockade Ineffective.

From Our Special Correspondent.

ST. CHARLES HOTEL, NEW-ORLEANS, Feb. 2, 1863.

A week before this reaches you, Gen. A. J. Hamilton of Texas will be in Washington, urging the cause of his State—probably that she may be constituted a separate military department. As you know, he accompanied the expedition of Gen. Banks, hoping and believing that its destination was Texas, and asserting the vital importance of striking at the rebellion there; that it might be isolated, surrounded. He returned to the North disappointed, subsequent to the news of the Galveston disaster reaching us. Since then I have had to chronicle additional evil tidings from the same coast. In illustration of the Colonel's mission and of the Texas question generally, it may be admissible to afford a few particulars, involving the mention of recent facts:

It is known that the Rebels obtain by far the greater portion of their supplies through Texas, by way of the Rio Grande or from the Mexican ports. So long as these sources are available, and they have cotton to pay for powder, lead, blankets, cloth, shoes, coffee, sugar, &c., they will never want for them. Mexico produces no cotton, therefore needs it. On the frontier, the Confederates have established regular agents, extending from thence as far into the interior as San Luis, Potosi, 1,000 miles from San Antonio and about 300 North of the City of Mexico. I have, this morning, seen a letter from Mr. M. M. Kimmel, our Consul at Monterey, written to a U. S. Officer at this port, in which he states that a Rebel order for no less than 600,000 of the hand-loom blankets made at that place is being executed there.

At the Mexican ports, too—whether Matamoras, Tampico, or Vera Cruz—our blockade is a miserable inutility, all commercial restrictions being easily evaded. A vessel may clear from New-York for Nassau, Havana, Port-au-Prince, and thence sail direct for Mexico. As an illustration of the loose way in which things are managed, I am informed by Mr. Dennison, Collector of this port (himself a Texan, and loyally interested in this question) that not long ago a ship left your city freighted with *cotton bagging*, ropes, &c., the owner being under bonds to sell it only to Mexicans. I have but to refer to a sentence printed above, about the non-existence of the plant in the republic, to point the joke of this.

The Confederates regard Matamoras as their special port. Fifty vessels are there now, large and small. In June last, an agent departed from this place for Europe: he has just returned, in charge of three vessels, freighted with arms. Another went to purchase medicines; his arrival is expected daily. The profits to both buyers and sellers are great, the risks comparatively nothing. What wonder, then, that such a trade should flourish?

If a Union force were dispatched to Fort Brown, Brownsville, opposite Matamoras, this contraband traffic might be almost entirely stopped. Military occupatoin is the only real preventive.

To turn from the minor to the major question of Texas in general: Those best informed assert that there are in the State at present but 7,000 Confederate soldiers, assembled mostly at or near Galveston. With an army of from 12,000 to 15,000 men, the loyal Texan exiles declare that they could expel rebellion, produce a prodigious and overwhelming reaction in favor of the Union, and cut off the "Southern Confederacy" from all the palpable advantages of contingent foreign territory. They rely strongly on the Anti-Slavery sentiments of the loyal German population, who have been especially singled out for the barbarity of the Rebels.

I commend Gen. Hamilton's mission to Washington to the sympathy of THE TRIBUNE. He is a good man and true, and has suffered for the cause in which he is, heart and soul, identified. T. B. G.

The President's Emancipation Proclamation.

The following is Gen. Banks's order promulgating the President's Emancipation Proclamation:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
NEW-ORLEANS, Jan. 29, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 12.—The Proclamation of the President of the United States, dated January 1, 1863, is published in general orders for the information and government of the officers and soldiers of this command, and all persons acting under their authority. It designates portions of the State of Louisiana which are not to be affected by its provisions. The laws of the United States, however, forbid officers of the army and navy to return slaves to their owners, or to decide upon the claim of any person to the service or labor of another; and the inevitable conditions of a state of war unavoidably deprive all classes of citizens of much of that absolute freedom of action and control of property which local law and the continued peace of the country guaranteed and secured to them. The forcible seizure of fugitives from service or labor by their owners is inconsistent with these laws and conditions, inasmuch as it leads to personal violence and the disturbance of the public peace, and it cannot be permitted. Officers and soldiers will not encourage or assist slaves to leave their employers, but they cannot compel or authorize their return by force.

The public interest peremptorily demands that all persons without other means of support, be required to maintain themselves by labor. Negroes are not exempt from this law. Those who leave their employers will be compelled to support themselves and families by labor upon the public works. Under no circumstances whatever can they be maintained in idleness, or allowed to wander through the parishes and cities of the State without employment. Vagrancy and crime will be suppressed by an enforced and constant occupation and employment.

Upon every consideration, labor is entitled to some equitable proportion of the crops it produces. To secure the objects both of capital and labor, the Sequestration Commission is hereby authorized and directed, upon conference with planters and other parties, to propose and establish a yearly system of negro labor, which shall provide for the food, clothing, proper treatment and just compensation for the negroes, at fixed rates, or an equitable proportion of the yearly crop, as may be deemed advisable. It should be just, but not exorbitant or onerous. When accepted by the planter or other parties, all the conditions of continuous and faithful service, respectful deportment, correct discipline and perfect subordination, shall be enforced on the part of the negroes by the officers of the Government. To secure their payment, the wages of labor will constitute a lien upon its products.

This may not be the best, but it is now the only practicable system. Wise men will do what they can, when they cannot do what they would. It is the law of success. In three years from the restoration of peace under this voluntary system of labor, the State of Louisiana will produce threefold the product of its most prosperous year in the past.

The Quartermaster's Department is charged with the duty of harvesting corn on deserted fields, and cultivating abandoned estates. Unemployed negroes will be engaged in this service under the control of suitable agents, or planters, with a just compensation in food, clothing, and money, consistent with the terms agreed upon by the Commission, and under such regulations as will tend to keep families together, to impart self-supporting habits to the negroes, and protect the best interests of the people and the Government.

By command of Major-Gen. BANKS.
RICHARD B. IRWIN, Lieut.-Col., A. A. G.

Cargo of the Prize Steamer Princess Royal.

Below we give the principal items of the manifest of the cargo of the Princess Royal, captured off Charleston. The total value in London, without insurance, was $134,280, while her own value there was much greater, as she is one of the fastest and best built iron propellers ever turned out from a British ship-yard. Her value, and that of her cargo to the Rebels, had she succeeded in getting into Charleston, would have been millions of dollars. Though caught endeavoring to get into Charleston harbor, she was cleared for Vancouver's Island.

Not the least interesting part of her story is that she was the property of Lindsay & Co., the Mr. Lindsay of which firm last year moved, in his seat in Parliament, that the British Government should no longer acknowledge the blockade, because of its alleged inefficiency.

The bill of lading shows that the Princess Royal (a vessel of 494 tons) cleared from London on the 8th of December, 1862, for Halifax and Vancouver's Island. Among the goods shipped were 500 st. brandy, by Tipping & Co.; 161,751 pounds of coffee, by H. Solloway; 60,000 pounds of gunpowder, by Curtiss & Co.; 12,335 pounds of tin, by T. Styan; 17,582 do., by T. Styan; 12,975 pepper, by H. Solloway; 5,000 stearin candles, by T. T. Bell & Co.; 53 tons sheet iron, 500 boxes tin plates, and 144 boxes hardware, by James Shakespeare; 110 coils of rope, 8,350 pounds of paper, 24 packages of drugs, 7,000 dozen cotton thread, 160 gross do., 260 pieces print cotton, 1 case pins, 15 cases machinery, 400 dozen boots, 1 tierce screws, 45 furnace bars, 6 frames do., by H. Solloway; 1 case military buttons, 1 case steel pens, 2 cases pins, 3 cases buttons, 5 cases flannel shirts, 1 case emery cloth, 500 pairs blankets, 7 cases bone buttons, 850 gross cotton thread, 1 case needles, 2,332 pieces wool stuff, 11 cases hardware, 12 cases machinery, 8 cases shoe thread, 2 cases hooks and eyes, 1 case bone buttons, 1 case wool hosiery, 22 casks and 42 cases drugs, 5 casks iron screws, 1 case pins, 8 cases and 23 casks apothecary, 8 cases sewing cotton, 80 pieces woolens, 1 case plain cottons, 2 cases dyed cottons, 3 cases files, 1 case steel wire, 6 cases printed cotton, 8 cases cotton hosiery, 2 cases cotton gloves, 2 cases linen thread, 250 gross sewing cotton, 20 dozen shoe thread, sundry packages machinery, by Lindsay & Co.; 90 packages boots and shoes and 40 packages leather, by L. Irenberg.

An Appeal to the True and Loyal.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: The Woman's Central Relief Association, during the past eighteen months, has been brought into connection with hundreds of families all over our State, and to some extent in New-England, Pennsylvania and New-Jersey. We have made every effort, by distributing reports and circulars to keep up our relation with them. But although our auxiliary societies number twelve hundred outside of [illegible], [illegible] of reaching the individuals to accomplish this object. Our purpose is twofold, both to express our sense of the genuine liberality and [illegible] which have prompted the generous response to our appeals—our receipts for the six months ending November 1, 1862, reaching in value the great amount of $135,000—and also to keep alive this same warm feeling upon which we must probably make additional drafts in the future. The Association gathers supplies for the United States Sanitary Commission, and distributes them by its direction, since this is ascertained to be by far the safest way to reach the needy.

It may be said that Government should do all this. Were this true, its default would not justify us in leaving our soldiers to perish. But it is only partially true. While active military operations are in progress, and especially at the close of great battles, the prompt and thorough relief and treatment of the sick and wounded requires an amount of force in men, material and transportation which no Government has hitherto been able to keep permanently attached to its medical department. At such times, volunteer aid from without is indispensable to prevent the most fearful suffering and waste of life, however faithful and untiring the medical staff may be. Such aid must be organized to be economical and efficient, and the Commission, with its officers and agents on the ground, experienced in their duties, and in confidential communication with the military authorities, is the best organization through which the sympathy and affection of the people can reach and relieve the people's army.

It becomes, therefore, our duty to bring home to our fellow-citizens their obligations in the matter, and to show them by faithful reports how much care we endeavor to watch over their gifts.

During the month of January we have received contributions from the following places: Adams, Ames, Albany, Astoria, Auburn, Ashford, Bath, Bennington, Vt., Binghamton, Bethlehem, Blandford, Mass., Blooming Grove, Bloomville, Brewster, Broadalbin, Boonton, N. J., Brooklyn, Bloomingburg, Carmel, Cornwall Bridge, Cambridge, Castleton, Camden, Coventryville, Colla, Cuba, Clifton, Danbury, Ct., [illegible]anby, Croton, Brandon, Vt., Deansville, Devereux, D[illegible]r, Dover Plains, Dobbs's Ferry, Dryden, E. Palmyra, [illegible]ield, Ft. Edward, Fulton, Galen Center, Moriches, [illegible]enn's Falls, Geneva, Goshen, Greenwich, Ct., Hale's Eddy, Hancock, Hammondsport, Belfast, Camillus, Cortlandville, Burlington, Havana, Hartford, Ct., Homer, Hinesboro', Hoosick Falls, Howell's, Huron, Irvington, Ithaca, Italy Hollow, Jewett, Kinderhook, Killarney, Katonah, Kingston, Lakeville, Lee, Kelloggsville, Litchfield, Lockport, Luzerne, Howlett Hill, Locust Tree, Mt. Morris, Middletown, Ct., Middletown, N.Y., Monson, Mass., Malone, McGrawville, Mariner's Harbor, Morristown, N. J., Mystic River, Ct., Morrisville, Middlefield, Marshall, Morris, Black Creek, Meriden, New-Lebanon, Newburgh, New-London, Ct., New-Paltz, New-Providence, No. Pownal, Vt., Cape Vincent, No. Ridgeway, New-Marlboro, Madison, Oak Hill, Oswego, Onondaga, Orangeville, Pierrepoint Manor, Paterson, N. J., Plainfield, Providence, R. I., Potsdam, Prattsburgh, Pt. Richmond, Pt. Monmouth, N. J., Rhinebeck, Rondout, Rome, Land Lake, Sandy Hook, Ct., Alexandria, Leonardsville, Fenner, Fredonia, Oriskany, Cooperstown, North Becket, Salisbury, Perch River, Schenectady, Scott's Corners, Scio, South Adams, Shelburne, Massachusetts; Sandisfield, Sharon, West Stockbridge, Massachusetts; Stonington, Ct.; South Dover, Stapleton, Staatsburg, Stone Mills, Sing Sing, Springfield, Mass.; Syracuse, Tarrytown, Toronto, C. W.; Torrington, Throopsville, Trenton, Troy, Turin, Tubby Hook, Utica, Vosk, Vienna, Warwick, Williamsburg, West Clarksville, Watertown, Westfield, Watkins, Yates, Worcester, Whitesville, Wolcott, Oxford, Chester, Mansfield, Ct. They consisted of 4,572 cotton shirts, 6,266 flannel shirts, 1,103 cotton drawers, 4,117 flannel drawers, 5,447 pair socks, 723 slippers and shoes, 364 dressing-gowns, 355 sheets, 566 bed-quilts, 84 blankets, towels, handkerchiefs, lint, bandages, &c., beside a small quantity of farina and other delicate articles of diet, domestic wine, and dried fruit. We have sent all the warm clothing and bed-covering to Washington, and have now on hand very few articles of value. The large number of boxes that fill our store-rooms contain only cotton clothing reserved for Summer use, and not called for at present—pillow-cases, towels, old linen, in fact nothing that would prove immediately valuable in case of any emergency. Woolen clothing, bedticks, sheets and blankets are much needed. Flannel by the piece will be very acceptable. We are just now sending to Port Royal a considerable supply of goods to supplement the medical stores of Gen. Hunter's army. We must look to the public for further contributions—shall we look in vain? Respectfully,

On behalf of the Committee on Supplies,
February 7, 1863. ELLEN COLLINS, Chairman.

The Weekly Tribune.

NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 1863.

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We will thank our subscribers, in renewing their subscriptions, to invite their neighbors to join them, and form clubs, thus enabling them to secure THE TRIBUNE at the lowest possible rates.

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THE IMMINENT PERIL.

That the Federal Union is this day in greater peril from the Copperheads of the North than from the avowed Rebels in the South, and that this peril requires instant and serious attention, are truths [illegible] our readers, already [illegible] but we trust to the enlightenment of others. The new conspiracy to subvert the Constitution and Government is not less malignant and dangerous for borrowing the cloak of Unionism. Jeff. Davis and all his crew were the greatest sticklers for the Constitution in America till they saw fit to repudiate it: none of us loyal Unionists could begin with them. Breckinridge left Washington for the ranks of the Rebel army crying "The Constitution!" "The Constitution for ever! I am for the Constitution, and you Lincolnites are violating it!" The men who are known to the Rebels as their allies and servitors in the loyal States are hostile to the Government, but loud in their lip-loyalty to the Constitution. Calhoun was ever presenting himself as the champion of the Constitution while he was the master-spirit of the great slaveholding conspiracy to dissolve the Union.

The Committee on Federal Relations of the Kentucky House of Representatives made a report last Friday, proposing the appointment of six Commissioners, to confer with the Commissioners from Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, New-York and Pennsylvania. The Report affirms:

"That it is the duty of Kentucky to accept the practicabilities of the hour; that the Rebellion cannot be conquered under the present policy of the Government, which, if persisted in until December next, will result in disunion; that the question is how to coerce the President and his party to renounce said policy, and call Congress at an early day; that *resolutions and moral influences will not be sufficient*, and that the aggressive and unconstitutional course of the President and Congress make it impossible to restore the Union without *additional constitutional guaranties to the South*, and that Kentucky is willing to give them any that are reasonable; that the Proclamations of the 22d and 24th of September and 1st of January, the alleged War power, the suspension of the writ of habeas-corpus, the arrest of citizens without warrant, the division of sovereign States, military interference with elections, &c., are acts of tyranny that no brave people will submit to; that these oppressions ought to be submitted to so long as there is relief under the laws and Constitution, but that, whenever a perpetuation of these wrongs is attempted, resistance should be resorted to; that the arming of negroes is a confession of weakness, a folly, an insult to the brave soldier, and a crime against humanity and civilization; that Kentucky is yet devoted to the Union as it was; that she approves of the Messages of Govs. Seymour and Robinson; that Kentucky has the right to refuse to support a war calculated to overthrow the United States Constitution and the institutions of the State, and that she will unite with the Conservatives of the North to compel the abandonment of the ruinous policy of the Government, the assembling of the Congress elect, the revocation of the Proclamation of Freedom, the carrying on of the war upon principles of civilization, and for the sole purpose of restoring the Union, with the equality of the States unimpaired."

The Report was made a special order for an early day.

—We should like to know wherein the above compares favorably with the open treason of South Carolina and Georgia.

It proposes to change the Federal Constitution in the interest of Slavery. (So much for "the Constitution as it is.")

It asserts that "the President and his party" are to be *coerced* into abandoning the policy which they have deliberately adopted, and adopting that which they have as deliberately abandoned, after giving it a fair trial for eighteen months.

It proposes resistance to official acts of the President and Congress, not by testing their constitutionality in the Courts, nor by regularly repealing them or legally superseding them, but by force and violence.

It asserts that to secure the ends it contemplates "resolutions and moral influences will not be sufficient"—as of course they will not.

It condemns the arming of negroes *in defense* of the Union as "a crime against Humanity and Civilization," but has not a word of rebuke for the wholesale use of negroes by the Rebels to construct forts, mount guns, &c., for the destruction of the White soldiers of the Union, and does not hint a rebuke of the cold-blooded murder by Rebels of negroes captured by them while driving the teams and keeping the camps of our armies.

"The conservatives of the North" are claimed as coworkers in the revolution thus inaugurated, and Gov. Seymour's late Message is honored with special commendation.

The Democratic majorities of the Legislatures of Indiana and Illinois vie with the Kentucky "conservatives" in disloyal demonstrations. The Senate of Illinois has just resolved to "resist by all legal means" the payment of any sums which Congress may vote for the emancipation of slaves—that the State of Illinois is not morally nor legally bound to pay any part of such sums, &c., and that the Governors of the Border States be officially notified hereof. This will of course pass the House.

—A great "conservative" meeting was held at Oskaloosa, Iowa, on the 31st ult., whereat the Rev. Henry Clay Dean was chief speaker. Said meeting resolved that the War must be stopped forthwith—that a National Convention of the loyal and Rebel States should be held at Louisville so soon as may be—and continued as follows:

"*Resolved*, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress are hereby requested to use their best efforts to procure a speedy cessation of hostilities, and a reconstruction of the Union on the basis of the Constitution.

Resolved, That we do firmly believe and declare that any assistance furnished the Executive in the further prosecution of the war upon the basis of the present policy tends immediately and directly to the overthrow of both the Federal and State governments.

Resolved, That the General Government has no power under the Constitution to tax the people of the State of Iowa for the purpose of raising money with which to buy the slaves of the Southern States; and we now declare, in advance, that all debts contracted or bonds which may be issued for the purpose of paying for any such slaves, we hold to be utterly void for want of authority to issue the same, and, as a portion of the people of Iowa, we will never consent to be taxed for any such purpose.

Resolved, That we are opposed to the onerous and unjust Federal tax levied by an Abolition Congress, because it bears lightly upon the capital and manufactures of the East, and places a burden too heavy to be borne on the labor and products of the North-West.

Resolved, That we are utterly opposed to the unjust and oppressive tariff act passed by the Abolition party in Congress, and we will never cease our exertions until it is repealed.

Resolved, That the agricultural wealth and prosperity of the North-Western States are principally dependent upon free trade and unrestricted intercourse with the planting States of the South, and free outlet through the channel of the Mississippi River; that the separation of these planting States into a foreign nation, or the destruction of their system of industry by the emancipation of their slaves, thereby destroying their demand for North-Western products, would cut off or materially derange these vital sources of wealth and prosperity, and strike a fatal blow at the further development and progress of these States; and regarding, as we do, the whole system by which abolitionism has filled the world with denunciations as to the moral, religious, and humanitarian character and aspects of the institution of Slavery, as utterly false and without warrant in facts, in reason, or revelation, we hold it to be the duty of the people of the North-Western States, by every consideration of humanity and justice, as well as political interest and expediency, to oppose such emancipation of slaves by every constitutional means in their power, and to prevent the separation of the planting States of the lower Mississippi Valley from the States of the upper Valley by every possible means.

Resolved, That the Democracy of Iowa will cordially unite with their brethren of the other States in bringing about a reconstruction of the Union, and that we will vote for no candidate at the ensuing gubernatorial election who is in favor of continuing the war under the policy inaugurated by the Administration.

ALFRED SELVERS, President.

J. C. MACON, Secretary."

—We print the above as fair specimens of the spirit and substance of similar demonstrations by "conservatives" throughout the North-West. We have many "conservatives" in this quarter who do not seem to know whither they are drifting, and this exposé, carefully read, will [illegible] Gov. Seymour's late Message tell us plainly that they favor a stoppage of the War and the preservation of Rebel Slavery by revolutionary violence and a practical subversion of the Federal Government. Will their Eastern compatriots be equally explicit? In such times, every one should show his colors.

WAITING FOR A PARTNER.

An eminent journal, printed in a neighboring city, the managers of which care more for their own crotchets than for the country, has promulgated a patent labor-saving method of saving the Union, to which we extend the benefit of this advertisement.

Imprimis, Gen. George B. McClellan, at present upon a tour of exhibition in the principal cities, is to be restored to all his honors, dignities, and commands.

—We object to this, though not very strenuously, because Gen. McClellan, having received a great many houses and horses, the donations of tender-hearted friends, we think that he should be permitted to stay at home, to reside in the first and to drive the second. Otherwise, the intentions of the charitable bestowers of roof-trees and free rides may be entirely defeated. At any rate, if the General is to go back, we think that he should reconvey to the donors the houses and horses and shawls, as having been given by mistake.

Secondly, Gen. McClellan is to be furnished with "a fresh body of troops."

—We object to this, because, from what we know of Gen. McClellan, we believe that he would prefer veterans to raw recruits. We know that he is considered to be perfectly immense in drill, but we cannot, in conscience, ask him to repeat those gigantic labors from which he is resting, amid the enchantments of numerous donation parties.

Thirdly: Gen. McClellan, with his "fresh body of troops," is "to maintain the forms of Government until the opportunity occurs to elect another Administration."

—We object to this, because it is n't complimentary to Gen. McClellan, who seems to be the best entitled to compliments of any man in the United States. It does n't look very friendly for his professed friends to propose him for a mere *locum tenens*, a post, a peg, a stalking-horse. And it is certainly alarming to consider that we now can do no more than merely "maintain the forms of Government." Pray, what is the enemy to be doing all these fine months? Maintaining the forms of his government, we suppose, by assaulting, worrying, surprising, harassing, and hunting "the fresh body of troops," which, meanwhile, will display a masterly inactivity, except when compelled to "mizzle."

Fourthly: Nothing is to be done until we have "a new Administration."

—Of the Democratic stripe, of course! And what, pray, is to be done then? Is the fighting to be resumed? Then why not fight now? Or is the new Administration to be of the diplomatic, assuaging, persuading, intriguing, compromising, palavering, protocoling and rose-water variety? More bargains, propositions, conferences, commissions, conventions, speech-making, enacting, and Heaven knows what beside? And is Gen. McClellan expected to shine in these grand palavers? Is that the reason why, with his war-paint off, the chieftain has been perambulating the country? Practicing the Art of Speaking—eh? Are epaulettes and buttons to yield to the peaceful toga? Was it for such reason that the General was presented with two coach-horses instead of one charger?—with a carriage instead of a saddle?

—We are sorry that the gentlemen who propose this notable plan of restoring the Union should forget that its success would prove their Secession cronies to be liars of the first magnitude. Davis *et al.* certainly stand committed fairly enough upon the record, against a reference—they have said distinctly enough, a thousand times, in all manner of State papers and newspapers, that come back they would not and could not, unless compelled to come back by force of arms. And yet, by this scheme, we are to proffer them new chances of returning to loyalty—for the scheme can mean only that, or letting them go in peace. The talk about "fresh troops," so bitterly insulting to the gallant fellows now in the field, is only a blind. For who supposes that a National Administration of the Horatio Seymour tint would fight? Who would expect them to display any extraordinary vigor in the field, or to maintain the Constitution there with any tenacity? Nobody in his right mind. A Democratic Administration—we say it without fear of contradiction—would be a Peace-at-any-price Administration. Nothing better than semi-treason would be expected of it—nothing better than haggling, patching, and most disreputable bargaining. "Erring Sisters, depart in peace!" would be its legend. If the people choose to trust Brooks, Seymour, the Woods, and men of like kidney, with the adjustment of national differences, why the people are omnipotent, and can do that in haste, which they will bitterly rue at leisure. If the army be in the least demoralized, and the progress of the war at all suspended, the fault lies at the door of the Democratic Party. If it has done so much mischief out of office, of what will it be capable in power? Wise and honest men, true lovers of the Union, would look with fear, trembling, distrust, and disgust, upon any postponement of the assertion, sharp, vigorous, and offensive, of the sanctity of the laws, until after some coming election. We think that to save the whole country from the anarchy which now distracts so great a part of it, we need prompt, vigorous and decisive action, military and naval; and that any attempt to carry the question of Peace or War into a Presidential Election, might result in schemes of demagogy and in scenes of bloodshed frightful to anticipate. We say nothing of any delay occasioned by military necessity; but we do say that any other is abominably cruel. The Emancipation Policy, which, after all, is what these schemers hate, rests upon the plighted faith of this Government, and any attempt to evade it will be [illegible] because they will be so richly deserved.

NEW-JERSEY.

A fresh series of resolves were offered yesterday in the Legislature of New-Jersey, proposing five Commissioners to proceed to Richmond and there treat with the Rebel authorities for Peace! Four of the five persons named as Commissioners are of the school which regards Peace as only attainable—in fact, as alone desirable—through abject prostration to the traitorous Slave Power. Such a mission can have no other effect than to assure the Rebels that the Nation is already beaten and the Confederacy a fixed fact.

If we regarded party issues as of paramount consequence, we should hope for the passage of these resolves. They are morally certain to dig the political graves of their authors and supporters. But the country must not suffer, even that the Democratic party may cover itself with the odium which so long rested on the promoters of the famous Hartford Convention. A majority of the People of the Rebel States would doubtless gladly assent to a restoration of "the Union as it was;" but the Richmond despotism has already told us that it will do nothing of the sort. Then what use of embassadors to that city who have no muskets on their shoulders?

NEGRO SOLDIERS ON DUTY.

On another page of this morning's paper will be found our Special Correspondence from Port Royal, and Col. Higginson's very interesting official report of a successful expedition into Georgia and Florida, undertaken with a force of 462 officers and men of the 1st South Carolina Volunteers. The bravery and good conduct of the regiment more than equaled the high anticipations of its commander. The men were repeatedly under fire, were opposed by infantry, cavalry, and artillery, fought on board a steamer exposed to heavy musketry from the banks of a narrow river—were tried in all ways, and came off invariably with honor and success. They brought away property to a large amount, capturing also a cannon and a flag, which the Colonel asks leave to keep for the regiment, and which he and they have fairly won.

It will not need many such reports as this—and there have been several before it—to shake our inveterate Saxon prejudice against the capacity and courage of negro troops. Everybody knows that they were used in the Revolution and in the last war with Great Britain—fought side by side with white troops, and won equal praises from Washington and Jackson. It is known also that black sailors are employed on our men-of-war, are valued by their commanders, and are on equal terms with their white comrades. If on the sea, why not on land? No officer who has commanded black troops has yet reported against them. They are tried in the most unfavorable and difficult circumstances, but never fail. When shall we learn to use the full strength of the formidable ally who is only waiting for a summons to rally under the flag of the Union?

Col. Higginson says: "No officer in this regiment now doubts that the key to the successful prosecution of this war lies in the unlimited employment of black troops." The remark is true in a military sense, and it has a still deeper political significance. When Hunter has scattered 50,000 muskets among the negroes of the Carolinas, and Butler has organized the 100,000 or 200,000 blacks for whom he may perhaps shortly carry arms to New-Orleans, the possibility of restoring the Union as it was, with Slavery again its dominant power, will be seen to have finally passed away. The negro is indeed the key to our success.

REBEL DISTRESS.

In the Rebel correspondence recently captured on the Huntress we find nothing of special interest except some additional evidence of the extreme scarcity and distress within the insurgent States. Messrs. Vernon & Co., Government contractors at Richmond, write to the Rebel Secretary of War that the freight per ton from Nassau to a Confederate port is $500, payable in advance, and equal to $1,500 in Richmond. This enormous rate makes it impossible to import on private account many articles indispensable to be supplied, and the Government is urged to undertake, on its own account, the business of running the blockade. Prices are in proportion to freights. Salt, worth $7 50 per ton in Nassau, brings $1,700 in Richmond; Coffee is $240 per ton in Nassau—$5,500 in Richmond. A blockade which has raised prices to this extent cannot be wholly ineffectual, though something of the inflation is fairly chargeable to the inordinate expansion of the Rebel currency.

Be the causes what they may, the fact of great and increasing deficiency of the most necessary supplies and munitions of war is notorious and undisputed. Proposals were recently solicited from England for niter at 90 cents, and the prospects of getting it at that price were by no means flattering. Why do we not take advantage of such necessities? We do believe that by immediate, skillful, determined, and persistent assault on all assailable points, the means which the Rebels possess of protracting this war might be absolutely exhausted in a month.

XXXVIIth CONGRESS—Third Session.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Feb. 5, 1863.

—In the Senate, to-day, a bill was introduced to aid the construction of railroads and telegraphs in Kansas. Mr. Wall offered a resolution to inquire into an "arbitrary arrest," but it was laid over. The bill in relation to Jurors in the United States Courts was passed; also the bill concerning Courts in Washington Territory; also the bill to temporarily supply vacancies in Executive Departments; also the bill to change the time of holding certain District Courts. The bill encouraging enlistments, and the enrollment and drafting of the military was taken up. The pending question to strike out the 4th section was discussed at considerable length, by Messrs. Collamer, Bayard, Davis, Sherman, Doolittle, Lane, Howard, McDougall, Rice and others. The motion to strike out the section was lost [illegible] resolution was adopted that the Senate be informed of the actual number of soldiers raised since the war began.

In the House, a bill making 37 new post routes was passed. The Senate's amendments to the Legislative Appropriation bill were taken up. That fixing mileage at 10 cents per mile was disagreed to; that cold-shouldering *The National Intelligencer* was passed; on the others a Conference Committee was asked for. A joint resolution to codify the Naval laws was passed; also, a bill amending the Naval Pension Act so as to give in certain $15 per month cases $20 per month. Some amendments were made to the Naval Appropriation bill; as to war steamers, it was provided that no contracts shall be entered into for construction, until proposals have been solicited from the principal iron shipbuilders, and made on the most favorable terms. An appropriation for the Brooklyn Navy-Yard was increased in order to accommodate three vessels now building there 423 feet in length.

FRIDAY, Feb. 6, 1863.

In the Senate to-day, the Finance Committee were requested to report as to the expediency of repealing the duty on paper. The Senate called for the report and maps of Capt. John Mullan, who was engaged in the construction of a military road from Walla-Walla to Fort Benton. A bill was introduced to prevent and punish frauds upon the revenue, and provide for the more certain and speedy collection of claims in favor of the United States. A motion to take up the Bankrupt bill was lost: Yeas, 14; Nays, 24. The report of the Conference Committee on the Deficiency bill was agreed to. The resolution expelling George E. Badger from the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and appointing Prof. Agassiz in his place, was passed.

The House concurred in the Senate's amendment to the Post-Office Appropriation bill authorizing the Postmaster-General to contract for carrying the mail in steamships from San Francisco to the several ports in Oregon, at a sum not exceeding $24,000 per annum. After spending some time on private bills, the House took up the Ship Canal bill, which was debated until the adjournment—no vote taken.

SATURDAY, Feb. 7, 1863.

—In the Senate, to-day, the House bill to promote the efficiency of the Commissary Department was passed. A memorial was presented from merchants of New-York, praying that legal-tender notes may be used for the payment of custom duties. A resolution directing the Committee on the Conduct of the War to inquire into the condition of the Army of the Potomac was introduced by Mr. Sumner of Massachusetts, and laid over. The Missouri Emancipation bill was taken up and debated until midnight.

In the House, the Illinois and New-York Ship Canal bill was debated during the entire session. A demand for the previous question was seconded, but, pending further proceedings, the House adjourned.

MONDAY, Feb. 9, 1863.

—In the Senate to-day, a bill was reported from the Military Committee to organize a Signal Corps during the present Rebellion. Another bill was reported from the same Committee for the enrollment and calling out of the militia. A bill was introduced to provide additional soldiers for the Union. Information was asked as to the amount of Government cotton sold since the blockade; also as to the character of the suggestions made by the Secretary of State to M. Mercier, as reported by him to M. Thouvenel, which induced M. Mercier to undertake a mission to Richmond, and what representations he was authorized to make from the Government or from the Secretary of State, to the Rebel government. The Currency bill was amended so as to authorize [illegible] of circulating currency from [illegible] to increase the amount [illegible] two hundred to three hundred millions. Pending an amendment providing that existing banks may become associations under the act, the Senate adjourned.

In the House, the Indian and Civil Appropriation bills were reported. The Ship Canal bill was then taken up. Some amendments were made, and finally the bill was rejected—Yeas 61, Nays 71. A motion to reconsider was lost—so, by usual Parliamentary practice, it is dead for the session. After some debate upon the New-Orleans election of Members of Congress, the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, Feb. 10, 1863.

—In the Senate to-day, the bill reorganizing the Post-Office was passed. A bill was reported to make 30 additional Major-Generals and 70 additional Brigadier-Generals. Correspondence with France about mediation, &c., was called for. The Currency bill was taken up, and Mr. Sherman made a long speech in favor of its passage. The amendment requiring banks to keep specie to the amount of one-fourth of their circulation was lost, 14 to 22. The proposition to make the notes good for duties was lost, 9 to 27. An amendment making 30 per cent of bank capital payable in gold was rejected, 19 to 21. An amendment requiring the assent of the States before banks could be organized was rejected; also, an amendment increasing the capital stock of banks. Without taking the main question, the Senate adjourned. During the session, Mr. Fessenden reported back the bill to prevent and punish frauds on the revenue, with amendments. He also introduced a bill to allow the United States to prosecute appeals and writs of error without giving security.

In the House, the Committee of Ways and Means was instructed to examine and report upon the practical operation of the Excise law on the interests of manufacturers of limited means. The joint resolution for the adjustment of the equitable claims of contractors for naval supplies, and to regulate contracts for the Navy Department, was recommitted to the Naval Committee. The House resumed the consideration of the report of the Committee on Elections in favor of admitting Messrs. Flanders and Hahn as Representatives from Louisiana. Speeches were made by several Members, but no vote was reached.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 11, 1863.

—In the U. S. Senate, to-day, the Military Committee reported adversely to a coastwise telegraph cable. The same Committee asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the bill for the construction of a military and postal road from Washington to New-York. The Judiciary Committee reported against amending the Fugitive Slave act. The bill allowing the United States to prosecute writs of error without giving security was passed. Also, the bill to remove the Winnebagoes from Minnesota. After some discussion on the bill to increase the number of Major and Brigadier-Generals, the Currency bill was taken up, and an amendment was adopted, providing that if any bank shall be a holder of United States bonds to the amount of 50 per cent of its capital stock, it may transfer and deliver to the United States Treasurer such bonds or part thereof, and will be entitled to receive circulating notes equal to 80 per cent of the bonds so transferred. The Cities of Providence, Chicago, and St. Louis were added to the section about large banks. An amendment requiring the banks, in twelve months after the war is closed, to redeem 50 per cent of their circulation in specie, and in two years to redeem the whole of it, was rejected—14 against 22. The Senate adjourned, with the understanding that the bill [illegible]

In the House a joint resolution was reported to facilitate a proper representation of the industrial interests of the United States at the International Agricultural Exhibition at Hamburg in July next. It appropriates $10,000 for the transportation of articles to New-York, thence to Hamburg and back, to be returned free of duty, and also $5,000 for the salaries of a commissioner and clerk. The Committee on Territories reported bills authorizing the Territories of Nevada and Colorado severally to form Constitutions preliminary to their admission into the Union as States. The House passed the bill authorizing the Independent Line of Telegraph, between Portland and Washington, to construct and locate their line in the District of Columbia. The House also passed the bill incorporating the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children. This bill provides for giving suitable homes and Christian instruction to such colored women and children. The Louisiana election case was postponed until Monday. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Naval Appropriation bill. The amendment that no part of the appropriation shall be expended for the pay or maintenance of 76 Acting Midshipmen appointed during the recess of Congress by the Secretary of the Navy, in violation of the law, and that they be discharged from the Naval Academy in consequence of their illegal appointment, was agreed to—49 against 46. An amendment that while this Rebellion lasts, each Congressional District in the loyal States shall have one additional midshipman, to be appointed as heretofore, on the nomination of a member of the House of Representatives, and the Delegates in the present House shall each be entitled to one additional midshipman, was agreed to. Without coming to a conclusion on the bill, the House adjourned.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Jan. 5, 1863.

THE REMOVAL OF GEN. BUTLER.

The Yellow Book in the possession of Monsieur Mercier, passed around the Senate Chamber yesterday, caused a sensation. Particular attention was given to the evidence it published that the removal of Gen. Butler was known to Drouyn de Lhuys in Paris long before it was known here to the Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs, or the Chairman of the Senate Military Committee.

ATTEMPT TO PREVENT THE PAYMENT OF SOLDIERS.

It is a noticeable fact that when the bill was under consideration in the Senate to-day providing for the payment of soldiers in the Department of Missouri, Saulsbury of Delaware and Richardson of Illinois left the chamber, destroying a quorum and preventing the progress of business. The soldiers whom these two Senators have deprived of their pay are from the States of Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois, and have been waiting for their $13 a month upward of a year.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9, 1863.

BRITISH OFFICERS ACTING AS SPIES.

Two officers of the English Guards stationed in Canada, Captains Phillips and Wynne, after a short visit to Washington, without having had any communication with the authorities with respect to the procurement of passes through our lines, went to Baltimore and thence, by the assistance of Rebel friends, across the Potomac to Richmond. After being feted there on introductions from Rebel refugees in Canada, they went to Gen. Lee's headquarters and witnessed the gallant but unsuccessful attack by Burnside upon Fredericksburg. While attempting to return North, Wynne was arrested on the Upper Potomac. His companion, Phillips, escaped. Wynne, sent to Washington, and not giving a satisfactory account of himself, was committed to the Old Capitol Prison. At several examinations before the Judge-Advocate, Capt. Wynne admitted that he had carried letters of introduction to Richmond, and that his companion had done likewise. Sketches of the Rebel fortifications at Fredericksburg, and photographs of the principal generals in Lee's army were found upon him. He declined to name the Baltimoreans who had assisted him to get to the Rebel Capital, but expressed his entire sympathy with the Southern cause. A week ago, on a very stormy night, he succeeded in making his escape from prison, by cutting through a panel in the door of his room, and he has thus far eluded the strenuous efforts making for his capture.

ENROLLMENT OF FREE MEN OF COLOR.

Senator Sumner introduced an important bill to-day for the enrollment of the freed and free men of color:

SEC. 1 Provides that every able-bodied person, between 18 and 45 years of age, made free by act of Congress, or Proclamation of the President, or by any other legal or competent authority exercised in suppressing the Rebellion, shall be forthwith enrolled as a military force of the United States, by the commanding officer within whose Department they shall be found, and shall be organized, armed, equipped and mustered into service, to serve during the present war, to a number not exceeding 300,000 men.

Section 2 provides that such military force be organized according to the regulations of the branch of service in which they may be designated to serve, and receive the same rations and equipments as volunteers, and a monthly pay of seven dollars, half at the end of each month, and half at the end of service; be officered by persons commissioned by the President, and governed by the rules and Articles of War, and such other regulations as may be prescribed by law; each private to be entitled, upon his discharge, to ten acres of land, and each commissioned officer to twenty-five acres of confiscated land, to be occupied as a homestead by the person entitled to receive the same, and his family.

SEC. 3 authorizes the President to order the voluntary enlistment or enrollment of every able-bodied free male person of African descent between 18 and 45, for military service, to be paid like white volunteers, the whole number enrolled under the act not to be more than 300,000.

It is believed that the provisions of this bill are more acceptable to the Military Committee of the Senate than are those of the House bill. This latter, in the opinion of prominent Senators, confers less authority than existing laws.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Feb 10, 1863.

ADDITIONAL GENERALS.

Senator Wilson reported to-day a bill authorizing the appointment of 30 additional Major-Generals, making 70 in all, and 70 additional Brigadier-Generals, making 270 in all. The bill was framed in accordance with the suggestion of the Secretary of War, but against the opinion of almost all the Generals in the field excepting those who are looking for promotion, as numerous letters to members of the Committee and other Senators attest. The cost of a Major-General, including his staff, is computed at $21,000 a year, and that of a Brigadier at $16,000.

THE COUNTERMAND OF GEN. BURNSIDE'S FORWARD MOVEMENT.

The Joint Committee upon the Conduct of the War is prosecuting with vigor and effect the inquiry into the insubordinate influences which persuaded the President to countermand of Gen. Burnside's order to cross the Rappahannock and renew the Fredericksburg fight. The Investigation has already included the influence of a Cabinet officer with that of unwarlike generals.

AN IRON-CLAD GOING TO SAN FRANCISCO.

One of the new iron-clads is on ship board on its way to San Francisco, where it will be used as a harbor defense. Another, the Saugamon, is to take the place at Hampton Roads of the Nahant, which is to join the South Carolina iron-clad fleet.

RECEIPTS OF INTERNAL REVENUE.

The receipts of Internal Revenue during the last week, amounted to one and a third millions. The receipts yesterday and to-day are $136,000.

REPORTED PROMOTION OF GEN. PHELPS.

It is understood that yesterday the President nominated Brig.-Gen. Phelps of Negro Proclamation fame, to be a Maj.-Gen. vice Ex-Gov. Morgan of New-York resigned, ante-dating his commission, so that he will rank all the Volunteer Major-Generals in the service except Gens. Dix, Butler and Banks.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1863.

THE TREATY WITH GREAT BRITAIN FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE SLAVE-TRADE.

A sharp correspondence is said to have taken place between Secretary Seward and the Navy Department, growing out of the treaty which Mr. Seward negotiated with Great Britain for the suppression of the slave-trade. That treaty, strange to say, binds us to limit our search of British ships between the very parallels of latitude that include our blockade of the Rebel ports to "search to ascertain whether the vessels are employed in the American slave-trade, or are fitted up for it."

The clause recites: "Whenever a merchant vessel is searched by a ship of war, the commander of the said ship shall, in the act of so doing, exhibit to the commander of the merchant vessel the special instructions by which he is duly authorized to search, and shall deliver to such commander a certificate, signed by himself, stating his rank in the naval service of his country, and the name of the vessel he commanded, and also declaring that the only object of the search is to ascertain whether the vessel is employed in the African slave-trade, or is fitted up for said trade."

Mr. Seward requested Mr. Welles to issue instructions to our cruisers upon the coast to obey that treaty stipulation. Mr. Welles refused, in a way as decided as patriotic, to do any such thing, for that it would in effect nullify our blockade, and allow British ships to carry into rebel ports munitions of war and supplies without stint. The firmness of Secretary Welles in refusing to accede to the Secretary of State's request has borne its fruits.

England has this week, through her Minister, acknowledged the justice of the position assumed by the Secretary of the Navy, and concedes that cruisers acting under the special instructions, specified in the treaty, may also exercise the belligerent right of search.

THE NEW-YORK POLITICAL INFORMATION ORGANIZATION.

It has transpired here that the new organization in New-York, for the spread of political information, contemplates an assessment upon the clerks and other Government employees appointed under the Buchanan Administration who still hold offices here to raise a fund to carry the approaching State elections in New-Hampshire and Connecticut for the Democracy.

These contributions will receive the guaranty of a continuance in office under the Democratic administration hoped to be created through the aid of these initiatory arrangements.

THE REBEL REPORTS OF BREAKING THE BLOCKADE.

Lord Lyons has sent to all of the British Consuls in North America a copy of a remarkable dispatch which his lordship has received from Secretary Seward, and has directed each of them to notify him when this dispatch reaches their respective consulates.

Secretary Seward in this dispatch gives currency to rumors that the blockade of Galveston "may have been interrupted," but goes on to declare "that the blockade was resumed immediately, and will be continued until further notice." This virtual ad-

mission that the blockade of Galveston was raised, is regarded with some surprise by those versed in diplomacy, and Lord Lyons doubtless regards Secretary Seward's letter as a notice of the establishment of a blockade de novo.

For this purpose, British Consuls have been directed to record the exact date of their reception of Secretary Seward's admission that the blockade "may have been interrupted," and should vessels have cleared for Galveston between the dates of the reception of Magruder's announcement of the raising of the blockade and the announcement that the blockade "was resumed," their detention or capture by United States vessels will add to the international complications already existing.

THE NEW TAX BILL.

The Ways and Means Committee will in a few days report the Tax bill revised. The tax on some articles will be largely increased: on others much reduced. It has been argued strongly within the Committee that an increase of revenue will do more to sustain the credit of the Government than anything save great victories in the field. Luxuries will be taxed, and what are called luxurious vices will be heavily taxed. Tobacco, whisky, and other articles of luxurious or vicious consumption, have never been taxed to any extent. In this country now they have got to catch it.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD BILL.

The amendments of the Pacific Railroad act reported by Senator McDougall are important. The capital stock is made in 100,000,000 shares of $100 each, instead of 1,000 shares of $1,000 each, and the number to entitle to serve as director shall be fifty instead of five shares.

The company is authorized to enter upon land for the construction of the road, 100 feet on each side, and if necessary for purposes of excavations or embankment of a still greater width; damages to be appraised: the land to be appraised at what its value would be if the road had not been built, minus any increase caused by the construction of the road in the value of portions of the premises not taken.

The per centage of the bonds which were under the previous act to remain in the treasury until the road should be entirely completed, are to be paid over to the Company whenever continuous sections, one hundred miles in length, shall be completed. In case physical or topographical features make the main line by way of Denver City inexpedient, the Company is authorized to construct a branch there.

The assignments made by the Central Pacific Railroad to the Western Pacific and San Francisco to San Jose Railroad are ratified and confirmed, and these companies are authorized to carry their road across any navigable river or bay in California.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8, 1863.

MEXICAN AFFAIRS.

In compliance with the request of the House of Representatives, another large mass of documents relative to Mexican affairs has been communicated to that body. They will probably cover a thousand printed octavo pages, and form a history of events connected with that Republic for the last six months, including the diplomacy of France, England, Spain, the United States, and Mexico. To these papers Chargé d'Affaires of Mexico Romero has so largely contributed that Secretary Seward officially expressed to him his thanks for keeping him so fully advised. In one of the dispatches, Señor Romero says: "The Mexican Government has treated the French prisoners with so much kindness as to surprise even their own friends." He further informs Mr. Seward that there are many deserters from the French army, because they are convinced of the injustice of the war. Those who have come in state that rather than continue, they desire to become citizens of Mexico, and betake themselves to peaceful occupations. M. Romero does not neglect to remind our Government to the danger to the entire American continent, in the possible event of French success in Mexico. This faithful and much respected representative of that Republic promptly brought to the notice of our Government the conduct of Commodore Bell at Acapulco and elsewhere on the Pacific coast, showing that that officer had manifested partiality for the French, thus departing from the principle of neutrality, and seriously interfering with the maritime pursuits of the Mexicans. The Navy Department has admitted that the course of the officer has been such as to warrant the serious charge brought against him by Governor Pesueira, and to furnish a remedy against a repetition of like offenses.

MAJOR-GENERALS.

The President has nominated to the Senate for confirmation, Brig.-Gens. Milroy, Oglesby and Wilcox, to be Major-Generals, and Col. Armory of the 17th Massachusetts, to be a Brigadier-General.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9, 1863.

THE BANKS EXPEDITION TRANSPORTS.

The report of Senator Grimes upon the alleged abuses in the charter and outfit of transports for the Banks and other expeditions, a very voluminous document, arrives at the following conclusions:

First: That all Government vessels should be secured through legitimate channels by officers, in answer to advertisements.

Second: The practice of employing agents with unlimited power to fix the rate of charter cannot be justified.

Third: That all vessels should be thoroughly inspected by competent experts, responsible to the military branch of the Government.

Fourth: That the monopoly of chartering vessels by Hall, Loper and others, cannot be justified.

Fifth: That John Tucker, Assistant Secretary of War, and Col. James Belger, United States Army, knew and tolerated such monopoly.

Sixth: That no one should be allowed to act in the double capacity of broker and ship owner.

Seventh: That the commissions received by Hall, Loper, Danforth, and others, amounting to hundreds of thousands, rightfully belonged to the Government, and should be refunded.

Eighth: That many charters obtained through these persons were at exorbitant rates.

Ninth: That Collens & Pickerell should be made to refund their ill-gotten gains.

Tenth: That no charter money should be paid to the persons above named.

Eleventh: That Col. James Belger should be court-martialed.

Twelfth: That John B. Danforth is guilty of violation of law.

Thirteenth: That the War Department should exercise vigilance in each case to prevent loss and restore confidence in its management.

Fourteenth: That the facts relative to perjury in some of these cases should be inquired into.

NEW-YORK LEGISLATURE.

The following is the complete list of Standing Committees as announced by Speaker Callicot on Wednesday of last week:

Ways and Means—Messrs. Depew, Dean, William Dewey, Woodward, Andrus, Stewart, Mayham.
Commerce and Navigation—Messrs. Mattoon, Haring, Lesney, Cutler, Eastwick.
Canals—Messrs. Timmer, Breed, Bookstaver, McGowan, T. A. Hopkins, Mattoon, Hulett.
Railroads—Messrs. Healey, Tallman, Houghton, Duryea, Loomis.
Banks—Messrs. S. Smith, H. H. Fields, Dongbly, Rosso, T. C. Fields.
Insurance Companies—Messrs. King, P. E. Havens, Boswell, J. B. Smith, Van Buren.
Two-Thirds and Three-Fifths Bills—Messrs. Brooks, Parker, Mayham, Aldrich, Murphy.
Colleges and Academies—Messrs. Church, Gover, Lovetridge, Weaver, Conger.
Grievances—Messrs. Van Buren, H. E. Smith, Westbrook, Courtney, Streit.
Privileges and Elections—Messrs. P. E. Havens, Moulton, Church, S. Smith, Fisher.
Petitions of Aliens—Messrs. O'Brien, Palmer, Gilbert, Morgan, Oswald.
Erection and Division of Towns and Counties—Messrs. Prescott, Dacy, Taggart, Woodward, Shaw.
Claims—Messrs. Parker, Brockett, Crittenden, Hill, Breed.
Internal Affairs of Towns and Counties—Messrs. J. S. Shevour, Le Fever, Moulton, Benjamin, Freeman.
Medical Societies and Colleges—Messrs. Sweet, Korn, Bostwick, Boswell, Houghton.
State Charitable Institutions—Messrs. Teft, Gillespie, L. Dewey, Dutcher, Brand.
Affairs of Cities—Messrs. Seymour, Fisher, Andrew Smith, Benedict, Perks, Hutchings, Lake.
Affairs of Villages—Messrs. Munro, Paulding, Brand, Snyder, E. B. Smith.
Manufacture of Salt—Messrs. Clarke, McDougall, Hulett, Teft, Talman.
Trade and Manufactures—Messrs. Hescock, McShea, Van Hoeson, Hasbrouck, H. E. Smith.
State Prisons—Messrs. Adgate, Robinson, Marshall, Brown, Rose.
Engrossed Bills—Messrs. Gilbert, Wiggins, Bookstaver, Hossen, Leslie.
Militia and Public Defense—Messrs. Fletcher, Davis, Weaver, Lawrence, McLean, Quackenbush, Flynn.
Roads and Bridges—Messrs. Ward, Wiggins, Watt, McDougall, Stoner.
Public Lands—Messrs. Lott, Allen, McCann, Chickering, Leslie.
Indian Affairs—Messrs. Dow, E. Hopkins, Durfee, Duryea, Hughes.
Charitable and Religious Societies—Messrs. Beddington, Lowell, Green, Dutcher, Miller.
Agriculture—Messrs. Cornell, McDougal, Shaw, Westbrook, Palmer.
Public Printing—Messrs. Robinson, Rose, Townsley, McKeen, McDonald.
Expenditures in Executive Department—Messrs. Marshall, Aldrich, Rogers, Dow, Brooks.
Expenditures of the House—Messrs. Post, A. Smith, Green, Brockett, Le Fever.
Judiciary—Messrs. Sherwood, Johnson, Collins, Freas, Pritchett, Hailey, Sedgwick.
Federal Relations—Messrs. W. Dewey, Davis, Trimmer, Post, King, Loveridge, Sherman.
Joint Library—Messrs. Loomis, Gillespie, P. H. Field, Sherwood, Paulding.

In the State Assembly there was another violent and disorderly session, made so by the wrangling of certain Democratic city members. Two of them had a wordy war, each trying to expose the other—and it may be supposed that the country members were not a little amused at the pot-and-kettle colloquy. The ostensible subject before the House was the appointment of a Committee to investigate charges against the Speaker. Mr. Tom. Fields's crowd were plainly told that vague generalizations would not do; if they wanted to try a man they must first indict him, in black and white—in other words, put their charges in writing, and sign them with the understanding that they believed them to be true. No one did so, but reviled and abused everybody on the majority side. Finally, a resolution passed that when charges should be thus presented an investigation should proceed. After adjournment, some of the members from this section of the State made Albany noisy with brawls and fights, head-cracking, rum-drinking, and other diversions to which they are addicted.

On Wednesday, the 11th, Mr. Andrus introduced into the Senate the following bill, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee:

AN ACT to authorize Volunteers in the Army to Vote by Proxy in certain cases.

The People of the State of New-York represented in Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:

SEC. 1. Any legal voter of this State who shall at the time of holding a general or special election in this State, or in the county and election District of which he shall be at the time a resident, a volunteer in the army of the United States, or engaged in repelling invasion in another part of the State, is hereby empowered to appoint a citizen and resident of the same election district with himself to cast a vote for him at such elections, in the same manner as he would have voted himself in case he should be at home and in attendance upon the said elections.

SEC. 2. The citizen so selected must receive from such legal voter a certificate in writing, duly authenticated, empowering him thus to vote in place of said voter; which certificate shall name the persons for whom the said voter desires said citizen to vote, and the offices which are thus to be filled by his proxy, and any vote cast as such proxy for any other person for any office shall be void, and the person casting the same shall be subject to all the penalties for illegal voting prescribed in the Statutes of this State.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Inspectors of Election and of the Board of Registration in the Election District to which such voter and his proxy belong, to examine said certificate and make due registry of the same on the poll list and registry of legal voters, in the same manner as legal voters are now registered, and all laws relating to the right and qualifications of legal voters shall be obligatory in the case of such volunteers and their proxies, so far as the same shall be applicable.

SEC. 4. All acts and parts of acts, so far as conflicting with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed.

SEC. 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

THE DISASTER AT SABINE PASS.

Interesting Particulars of the Capture of the Morning Light and Velocity by the Rebels—They are Despoiled of their Prize—Affairs at Galveston—The Bombardment of the City—Reported Disabling of the "290."

From Our Special Correspondent.

ST. CHARLES HOTEL, NEW-ORLEANS, LA., Jan. 29, 1863.

I have another naval disaster to chronicle, similar to, though not so bad as, that which occurred a month ago at Galveston, Texas, and, like it, transpiring on the same coast. The news, in the shape of a brief telegram from down the river, announcing the capture of the United States blockading vessels Morning Light and Velocity, and the burning of the former by the Rebels off Sabine Pass, reached this city on the night of the 28th. A visit to the Tennessee yesterday morning ——— the following particulars:

The Tennessee (a large side-wheel steamer, chartered by the Government as a transport and gunboat) left this port on the 20th of the month, being under orders to carry dispatches from Commodore Farragut to Commander Bell of the blockading squadron off Galveston, and also to stop on her way at Sabine Pass for the purpose of putting on board of the Morning Light Acting-Master Partridge—the same gentleman who experienced such an opportune escape from the notorious "290" when, deceived by her simulation of a *fanciful* British vessel, he was about to visit her from the unfortunate Hatteras, which she subsequently destroyed.

Arriving off the bar on the evening of the 21st, just after sunset, the Tennessee sighted a large steamer, strongly resembling the object of her quest, though her top spars and the yards on her mizzen-mast had been removed, and her jibboom was rigged English fashion. Behind her lay another vessel, indistinctly made out in the fast gathering darkness. Recognizing the Morning Light, in spite of her disguise, and rendered additionally distrustful of what might have happened by the fact that she showed no signal lights in answer to his own, Capt. Child of the Tennessee caused her to be hailed and demanded her name. "The Morning Light!" was the reply. "Then send a boat; we have a communication for you." "We've neither boat nor crew!" returned the unknown respondent, although the former could be discerned, hanging at the stern, by the officers of the Tennessee. "Where is Capt. Dillingham?" next demanded Capt. Child. The answer came, brief, decisive and exultant: "Ashore and a prisoner! the Confederates are in possession of the vessel!"

A short consultation on board the Tennessee followed this disastrous intelligence. Some of the officers were disposed to attempt a recapture of the Morning Light. It being known, however, that she had no less than 8 broadside guns and 1 30-pound Parrott, all of which were in undoubted possession of the Rebels, while the Tennessee carried but an inconsiderable armament of howitzers, just sufficient for blockade purposes, peaceful counsels prevailed, and Capt. Child steamed for Galveston, 40 miles to the southward, there to report the bad news to Commander Bell. From the appearance of the Morning Light, it was evident that she had been recently attacked, probably that very day, and no doubt existed that the schooner Velocity, her only partner in the blockade of Sabine City, had shared her fate.

Commander Bell next morning dispatched two gunboats, the New-London and Cayuga, to the rescue; had he done this immediately on the receipt of the information necessitating it, it might have proved effective. As ordered, the gunboats reached Sabine Pass at noon, and were discerned when about eight miles distance from it by the Rebels, then engaged in attempting to secure their prize by hauling the Morning Light over the bar by the aid of a steam-tug, a task which the shoal water rendered difficult, if not impossible. Perceiving this and the approaching danger they instantly set fire to the captured vessel and abandoned her, escaping on shore. By the time that the gunboats arrived it was to witness the Morning Light all ablaze, and her guns, exploded by the conflagration, discharging themselves one by one in sonorous death-roar into the blue ether and bright sunny morning.

The wreck lies outside the bar, at about five miles distance from the coast. From it the Rebels have probably obtained nothing beyond the smallest portables. The New-London and the Cayuga remain on the station, blockading the port—let us hope with less probability of shameful defeat and discomforture than seems to have attended the Morning Light. They draw nine feet of water, and, therefore, may find it practicable to cross the bar, and to visit Sabine City with condign punishment.

One of three deserters from on shore afforded Capt. Abner Read of the New-London a few meager particulars relative to the surprisal and capture. He asserted that Capt. Dillingham had been duly and uselessly warned of the attempt; that it was made during the calm, on the morning of the 21st, by two Rebel gunboats, the Josiah Gunn, a high-pressure river steamer, mounting three guns (two long 32s, and one 64), and the Uncle Ben, with a similar number, caliber unknown, both completely protected by cotton bales after the fashion of those which effected the clearance of our fleet in Galveston Bay. When the Morning Light and Velocity saw them coming, they attempted to escape (?) by flight, but were outsailed and captured. The former had on board 75 men, the latter 12. Two companies of Rebel cavalry and two of infantry were perceived on shore by the New-London and Cayuga, busily engaged in throwing up batteries.

The Tennessee left Galveston on the morning of the 26th, arriving at New-Orleans on the night of the 28th, as already mentioned. She reports the following state of things in that locality:

The Brooklyn (flag-ship), Commander Bell; the Owasco, Capt. Wilson; the Kathardin, Capt. Johnson; the Sciota, Capt. Lowry, and the Itasca, Capt. Lewis, are all engaged in maintaining the blockade outside of the harbor. Ashore, Magruder has unlimited and unchallenged control. Almost every day he sends a boat with a flag of truce to Commander Bell, in one instance obliging him with a Texas newspaper, containing a flaming account about the great Confederate victory at Sabine Pass, in which two Rebel gunboats, manned by 300 men, chased the Morning Light for 10 miles, finally succeeding in capturing her, after a nominal fight, "the Yankees exhibiting their usual cowardice."

The Rinaldo, British war-frigate, is there also. When she arrived, on the 24th, (from this port), she sent a boat on shore to communicate with H. B. M. Consul, who presently came out, and after a conference, returned, on board a Rebel yacht, with a flag of truce flying over the Confederate colors, which event was duly recognized by a salute of 7 guns from the Rinaldo. Commander Bell professes himself quite ready to attack the town; on one occasion the Brooklyn actually steamed in and began shelling the Rebel batteries, when—of course—the inevitable flag of truce appeared, with a polite message on the part of Gen. Magruder, to the effect that his hospitals, containing "both your wounded and ours," were directly in range, also that there were many women and children in the city, furthermore that the Confederate Government had proclaimed Galveston a free port, and that the foreign consuls were decidedly of the opinion that the blockade had been successfully broken, and could not be recognized until they had communicated with their respective governments. On which—equally of course—Commander Bell deferred further belligerent operations. And so (with Rebel batteries progressing ashore, apace) we rest for the present. And probably we shall continue to do so, unless Commodore Farragut grows indignant and issues rash orders.

Apropos of the Galveston tragedy on New-Year's Day, the Rebels now declare that less than a dozen of the crew of the Harriet Lane were killed, and admit that one of their steamers was sunk in the attack. Beyond the usual desire to assert that they encountered no adequate resistance, no ostensible temptation to falsehood in the former particular can be suggested.

The wreck of the Hatteras lies sunken about 20 miles south of Galveston. There is a wild rumor (much too good to be true) that the Alabama, disabled in the fight, has been towed into Vera Cruz by a French vessel, there to undergo repairs. I have very little doubt that the next mail will disabuse any confiding souls who may place credence in the report.

The Tennessee does not believe that the Harriet Lane, manned by a Rebel crew, has turned Confederate privateer in conjunction with the "290." Her guns (so says the Tennessee) have been removed, like those of the wrecked Westfield, to the batteries on shore, and she herself, so transformed that her builder would not recognize her, lies in the harbor. Certain it is, that no official intimation of her escape has reached Commodore Farragut. I append the reasons for supposing it probable.

On Sunday, Jan. 18, a "norther" of unusual violence prevailed on the Texan coast, obliging both the Brooklyn and the Owasco to put out to sea, and continuing throughout the day until the morning of the 19th. The schooner which brought the last dispatches to Com. Farragut, bearing the date of the previous night, set out that morning. Then, the storm had passed away, and the day broke clear and unclouded, affording an excellent view of the bay and harbor. And it was the universal opinion of those on board that schooner—confirmed by excellent glasses—that the Harriet Lane was nowhere visible; that she had escaped at 3 a. m. by one channel, while the New-London kept an ineffective watch over the other. Pending later official advices from Commander Bell, by the Tennessee—of which I heard nothing yesterday—such is the impression of T. B. G.

A Curious Story about Jeff. Davis and the Privateer Florida.

From Our Special Correspondent.

ST. CHARLES HOTEL, New-Orleans, Jan. 29, 1863.

I have a good story to tell you, with only the slight drawback that not a word of it may be true. It is credited, however, by its narrators, and has cost me at least two miles of bipedal locomotion, to ——— trace it to some authentic source, this very day. ——— will not be ——— prised at my relating it, especially as there is no intrinsic improbability involved in the business; only let it be definitely understood that I, myself, assume the position of the pragmatic British Embassador, who, writing from one of the petty German Courts in the time of the first George, informed St. James that "some say the Pretender is dead, some that he is not;" adding, sagely, "for my part, I believe neither of them."

You know that the little steamer S. W. Brown has recently made a trip from this city across Lake Pontchartrain to Confederate Dixie, conveying thither a cargo of "registered enemies" to the United States, principally in crinoline. It also brought back a few—I will not say enemies—but as good friends to American unity as may be supposed to exist in the dominions acknowledging the sway of Jefferson Davis. From them the following story is derived. I believe they told it originally to Col. Clark, chief aid on Gen. Banks's staff, a gentleman whose gallantry toward them was rewarded, says *The Delta*, by three cheers, subsequent to a similar manifestation in honor of the arch Secessionist. It relates to the latter, and is as follows:

On the first of the month and year, or the fifth—for the date is variously stated—Jeff. Davis was at Mobile. It is known that he has been visiting the south-western portion of the "so-called Confederate States" very recently, involving a look in at Vicksburg and Port Hudson, presently bringing up at the best known city in Alabama, there to celebrate the inception of 1863, and the beginning of the third year of his reign. While there he resolved on a voyage of inspection to Forts Morgan and Gaines. With him went his suite, Gen. Buckner and staff, also Governor Brown, of Georgia, and a goodly company of ladies and gentlemen, all as ardent Secessionists as the majority of the population of the town in which I write—I cannot think of a stronger comparison. These embarked on board the steamer Florida, and steamed gallantly outward, unmindful or defiant of our blockading flotilla.

Simultaneously—I would not add intentionally—the captain of her Britannic Majesty's frigate Vesuvius obtained permission of Commodore Hitchcock to allow the English Consul to visit him, which was accomplished by means of a small steamer, known as the Crescent, belonging to Mobile. During the interview, the Florida—described as a big, black-looking vessel, mounting half a dozen guns—neared the blockading fleet. Her machinery had got broken—became unmanageable—and she was drifting, helplessly outward, a prey to any who might choose or dare to board her. She came, indeed, close to the flag-ship of our squadron—the Susquehanna—all unwitting of the prize within her reach.

Why was she not boarded—fired upon? Well, the British Consul's steamer was in the way, and our sailors could not be ungallant enough to avail themselves of a palpable accident, to the detriment of a harmless party of ladies and gentlemen (and Jeff. Davis!) So the engineers of the Florida contrived to reassert their mastery over the vessel, and to return in safety to the city. Some say they displayed a flag of truce; others that the steamer was actually boarded and allowed to retire scot free, of course in ignorance of her contents. I spare you other conflicting rumors.

If this story be true, as may be the case for anything I know to the contrary, here is a historical might-have-been worthy of consideration. T. B. G.

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Negro Volunteers at the South—Their Bravery and Soldierly Bearing—Report of Col. Higginson.

The expedition of the First South Carolina Volunteers, a full account of which is given in the subjoined highly interesting report of Col. Higginson, should stop the sneers and slanders of those whose anti-negro prejudices have urged the destitution of the Southern slave population of all the higher impulses of manhood.

ON BOARD STEAMER BEN DEFORD, Feb. 1, 1863.

Brig.-Gen. R. Saxton, Military Governor, &c.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report the safe return of the expedition under my command, consisting of 462 officers and men of the 1st South Carolina Volunteers, who left Beaufort, January 23, on board the steamers John Adams, Planter and Ben Deford.

The expedition has carried the regimental flag and the President's Proclamation far into the interior of Georgia and Florida. The men have been repeatedly under fire, have had infantry, cavalry and some artillery arrayed against them, and have in every instance come off not only with unblemished honor, but with undisputed triumph.

At Township, Florida a detachment of the expedition fought a cavalry company which met us unexpectedly on a midnight march through pine woods, and which completely surrounded us. They were beaten off with a loss on our part of one man killed and seven wounded, while the opposing party admits twelve men killed, including Lieut. Jones, in command of the company, beside many wounded. So complete was our victory that the enemy scattered and hid in the woods all night, not returning to his camp, which was five miles distant, until noon next day—a fact which was, unfortunately, unknown until too late to follow up our advantage. Had I listened to the urgent appeals of my men and pursued the flying enemy, we could have destroyed his camp; but in view of the darkness, his uncertain numbers, and swifter motions, with your injunctions of caution, I judged it better to rest satisfied with the victory already gained.

On another occasion a detachment of about 250 men on board the John Adams fought its way 40 miles up and down river regarded by the naval commanders as the most dangerous in the department—the St. Mary's—a river left untraversed by our gunboats for many months, as it requires a boat like the John Adams to ascend it successfully. The stream is narrow, swift and winding, and bordered at many places with high bluffs, which blazed with rifle shots. With our glasses as we approached these points, we could see mounted men by the hundred galloping through the woods from point to point to await us, and, though fearful of our shot and shell, they were so daring against musketry, that one Rebel actually sprang from the shore upon the large boat which was towed at our stern, where he was shot down by one of my sergeants. We could see our shell scatter the Rebels as they fell among them, and some terrible execution must have been done, but not a man of this regiment was killed or wounded, though the steamer is covered with bullet marks, one of which shows where our brave Capt. Clifton of the vessel fell dead beside his own pilot-house, shot through the brain by a minié ball. Major Strong, who stood beside him escaped, as if by magic, both of them being unnecessarily exposed without my knowledge. The secret of our safety was in keeping the regiment below, except the gunners, but this required the utmost energy of the officers, as the men were wild to come on deck, and even implored to be landed on shore, and charge on the enemy.

Nobody knows anything about these men who has not seen them in battle. I find that I myself knew nothing. There is a fiery energy about them beyond anything of which I have ever read, unless it be the French Zouaves. It requires the strictest discipline to hold them in hand. During our first attack on the river, before I got them all penned below, they crowded at the open ends of the steamer, loading and firing with inconceivable rapidity, and shouting to each other: "Never give it up." When collected into the hold they actually fought each other for places at the few port-holes from which they could fire on the enemy.

Meanwhile the black gunners, admirably trained by Lieuts. Stockdale and O'Neil (both being accomplished artillerists) and Mr. Heron of the gunboat, did their duty without the slightest protection, and with great coolness amid a storm of shot.

This river expedition was not undertaken in mere bravado. Capt. Sears, U. S. A., the constructor of Fort Clinch, had urged upon the War Department to endeavor to obtain a large supply of valuable bricks, said to remain at the brick-yards, thirty miles up the St. Mary's, from which Fort Clinch was originally supplied. The War Department referred the matter to Col. Hawley, who approved my offer to undertake the enterprise. Apart from this, it was the desire of Lieut. Hughes, U. S. N., commanding U. S. steamer Mohawk, now lying at Fernandina, to obtain information regarding a Rebel steamer, the Berosa, said to be lying still further up the river, awaiting opportunities to run the blockade. Both objects were accomplished. I brought away all the bricks, and ascertained the Berosa to be worthless.

I have the honor to state that I have on board the Ben Deford 250 bars of the best new railroad iron, valued at $5,000, and much needed in this Department. This was obtained on St. Simons and Jekyl Islands, Georgia, from abandoned Rebel forts, a portion of it having been previously blown up, and collected by Capt. Steedman of the Paul Jones. I have also eight large sticks of yellow pine lumber, said to be worth $700, which came from St. Mary's, Georgia. There is also a quantity of rice, rosin, cordage, oars, and other small matters, suitable for army purposes. On board the John Adams there is a flock of 25 ——— Florida. I have turned over ——— at about $1,000, in view of the present ——— I have also turned over to Judge Sutta, Civil Provost Marshal at Fernandina, four horses and four steers, and a quantity of agricultural implements suitable for Mr. Helper's operations at that location.

I have seen with my own eyes, and left behind for want of means of transportation (and because brick was considered even more valuable) enough of the choicest Southern lumber to load five steamers like the Ben Deford—an amount estimated at more than a million feet, and probably worth, at Hilton Head, $50,000. I also left behind from choice valuable furniture by the houseful, pianos, china, &c., all packed up for transportation, as it was sent inland for safe keeping. Not only were my officers and men forbidden to take any of these things for private use, but nothing was taken for public use, save articles strictly contraband of war. No wanton destruction was permitted, nor were any buildings burned unless in retaliation for being fired upon according to the usages of war. Of course no personal outrage was permitted or desired.

At Woodstock I took six male prisoners, whom I brought down the river as hostages, intending to land part of them before reaching Fernandina, and release them on parole. But in view of the previous attacks made upon us from the banks, this would have seemed an absurd stretch of magnanimity, and by the advice of Col. Hawley I have brought them for your disposal.

At the same place we obtained a cannon and a flag which I respectfully ask permission for the regiment to retain. We obtained also some trophies of a different description from a slave jail; which I shall offer for your personal acceptance: Three sets of stocks of different structure—the chains and staples used for confining prisoners to the floor, and the key of the building. They furnish good illustrations of the barbarism against which we contend. We returned at the appointed time, although there are many other objects which I wish to effect, and our rations are not nearly exhausted. But the Ben Deford is crowded with freight, and the ammunition of the John Adams is running low. Capt. Hallet has been devoted to our interest, as was also until his lamented death the brave Capt. Clifton. Of the Planter, I have hitherto said nothing, as her worn out machinery would have made her perfectly valueless, but for the laborious efforts of Capt. Eldridge, and her Engineer, Mr. Baker, aided by the unconquerable energy of Col. Trowbridge of Company A, who had the command on board. Thanks to this they were enabled during our absence up the St. Mary's River to pay attention to the salt works along the coast. Finding that the works at King's Bay formerly destroyed by this regiment had never been rebuilt, they proceeded five miles up Crooked River, where salt works were seen. Capt. Trowbridge, with Capt. Rogers of Company F, and thirty men then marched two miles across a marsh, drawing a boat with them, and then sailed up a creek and destroyed the works. There were twenty-two large boilers, two store-houses, a large quantity of salt, two canoes, with barrels, vats, and all things appertaining. I desire to make honorable mention not only of the above officers, but of Major Strong, Capts. Jones, Company B; Randolph, Company C; Metcalf, Company G, and Dolly, Company H. Indeed, every officer did himself credit so far as he had opportunity, while the cheerfulness and enthusiasm of the men made it a pleasure to command them.

We found no large number of slaves anywhere; yet we brought away several whole families, and obtained by their means the most trustworthy information. I was interested to observe that the news of the President's Proclamation produced a marked effect upon them, and in one case it was of the greatest service to us in securing the hearty aid of a guide, who was timid and distrustful until he heard that he was legally free, after which he aided us gladly and came away with us.

My thanks are due, for advice and information, to Capt. Steedman, U. S. N., of the steamer Paul Jones; to Acting-Master Moses, U. S. N., of the bark Fernandina; to Acting Lieutenant Budd, U. S. N., of the steamer Potomska, for information and counsel, and especially to Lieutenant Commanding Hughes, U. S. N., of the steamer Mohawk, for 20 tons of coal, without which we could not have gone up the river.

I may state in conclusion that I obtained much valuable information not necessary to make public in regard to the location of the supplies of lumber, iron, rice, rosin, turpentine and cotton; and it would afford the officers and men of the regiment great pleasure to be constantly employed in obtaining these supplies for the Government from Rebel sources. But they would like still better to be permitted to occupy some advanced point in the interior with a steamer or two like the John Adams and an adequate supply of ammunition. We could obtain to a great extent, our own provisions, and rapidly enlarge our numbers, and could have information in advance of every movement against us. A chain of such posts would completely alter the whole aspect of the war in the seaboard slave States, and would accomplish what no accumulation of Northern regiments can so easily effect.

No officer in this regiment now doubts that the key to the successful prosecution of this war lies in the unlimited employment of black troops. Their superiority lies simply in the fact that they know the country and white troops do not, and moreover they have peculiarities of temperament, position and motive which belong to them alone. Instead of leaving their homes and families to fight, they are fighting for their homes and families, and they show the resolution and sagacity which a personal purpose gives. It would have been madness to attempt, with the bravest white troops, what I have successfully accomplished with black ones. Everything, even to the fighting of the vessel and the selection of the proper points for cannonading, was done by my own soldiers; indeed the real conductor of the whole expedition up the St. Mary's was Corporal Robert Sutton, of Co. G, formerly a slave upon the St. Mary's River, a man of extraordinary qualities, who needs nothing but a knowledge of the alphabet to entitle him to the most signal promotion. In every instance when I followed his advice the predicted result followed, and I never departed from it however slightly without having reason for subsequent regret.

I have the honor to be, General, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant, T. W. HIGGINSON,
Col. Commanding 1st Regiment South Carolina Vols.

Arrest of a Confederate Emissary.

Wednesday morning, upon the arrival of the steamship City of Manchester from Liverpool, the Custom-House officers who boarded her had their attention attracted toward a young man, one of the passengers, who evidently appeared ill at ease, and acted in a manner calculated to excite their suspicions and lead them to believe that something was wrong. He stood shivering upon the deck while waiting for his baggage to be examined, and took no notice of the officers when invited to step into the cabin and warm himself. Deputy Surveyor Brown closely eyed the man, and discovering a large protuberance about his breast pockets, directed Officer Archer to take him into the cabin and search him.

The protuberance was soon reduced by the withdrawal of a package of about 30 letters, a number of which were addressed to persons in the Confederate States. Several letters found upon his person addressed to Lieut. E. E. Fairfax Williamson, C. S. A., were opened, indicating that to be the name of the bearer. The letters also showed that he was connected with the French Legation, and one letter from Mr. Mason spoke of him in the highest terms. Several of the letters spoke of the great destitution in the South, and expressed hopes that aid would soon arrive from abroad—that unless it did, they could not hold out much longer. All of the opened letters were addressed to Lieut. Williamson, and the passenger, when asked whether that was his name by the officers, replied that it was Williamson, but he was not a lieutenant in the Rebel service, the letters having been thus addressed to him by his friends in sport. The baggage of Mr. Williamson was thoroughly examined, but nothing of a contraband character was found therein.

Officer Brown deeming further examination necessary, took Mr. Williamson in custody and conveyed him before Surveyor Andrews. The Surveyor asked him a number of questions, the nature of which, and the answers thereto, our reporter was prohibited from publishing. Yet it is sufficient to say that Mr. Andrews was convinced that all was not right. Mr. Williamson was then conveyed before Provost-Marshal Draper, who examined him at some length, taking the affidavits of the officers, and putting in shape such other evidence as was at hand. Upon the order of Gen. Draper, Mr. Williamson in charge of an officer was sent on to Washington last evening, and upon his arrival there he will be arraigned before the Secretary ———

From Vicksburg.

CAIRO, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1863.

Vicksburg letters say the brilliant achievement of the Queen running the gauntlet of the Rebel batteries has had a most beneficial effect on the spirits of our troops before Vicksburg.

A correspondent of *The Jackson Appeal* says that it is possible Gen. Grant will make the canal a success, and suggests that Grand Gulf, Port Gibson and other points between Vicksburg and Port Hudson be fortified.

Arrest of a Notorious Cotton Burner.

CAIRO, Ill., Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1863.

The Rebel Col. Cushman was arrested on Friday at his residence, near Ripley, Tenn., and brought to Columbus yesterday in irons. Cushman has burned more cotton perhaps than any other man in the "Confederacy." He has acted throughout with a commission from the Rebel Government.

FROM EUROPE.

—By the arrival of the steamship Europa at Halifax we have dates from Europe to Jan. 25, seven days later than that previously received. Several French and English papers maintain that a communication has been addressed from the French Government to that of Washington, suggesting the meeting of Commissioners from the United and the Southern States, upon neutral ground, to discuss the expediency of reconciliation. The Rebels are reported to have effected large sales of cotton-warrants in England, to be delivered at Confederate ports after the recognition of the Southern Confederacy. A strong opposition to the Mexican war is expected from the French Legislature, but the Emperor is said to have predicted that if the expedition comes to be fully understood it will be regarded one of the most glorious acts of his reign. Six thousand more additional troops have been sent to Mexico. The *Moniteur* acknowledges the hiring of Egyptian negroes for the Mexican expedition. Several plots, Muratist and Mazzinian, have been again discovered in Italy, and insurrectionary movements have broken out in Poland. The *Weimar Gazette* announces that the Duke of Coburg, brother of the late Prince Albert, has accepted the throne of Greece in case the House of Bavaria will be willing to abandon its claims; but it is also reported that Russia protests against the Duke on account of his near relationship to the royal family of England.

An important Anti-Slavery conference took place in Liverpool on Jan. 17. Mr. Spence, the well-known champion of the South, attempted to resuscitate the argument that Slavery could be supported on Scriptural grounds, but the meeting refused to hear him. He, however, like all other English champions of the South, expressed a desire for the cessation of Slavery, and a hope that the independence of the South would hasten that event. A resolution in favor of the Federal Government was carried by a large majority, and a Committee appointed to bring the subject before the people of Liverpool. *The Times* and *Daily News* are commenting upon the battle of Murfreesboro, which is generally admitted in England to be a victory of great importance. *The Daily News* also calls attention to the murder of twenty captured negroes by the Rebels.

Commercial Intelligence.

LONDON MONEY MARKET.—The funds on the 23d were flat and tending down. Money was in limited demand, and rates in open market were a quarter below Bank minimum. Consols closed on Friday at 92⅛@92¼ for money.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 24.—COTTON—The brokers' circular reports the sales of the week at 23,500 bales, of which 6,000 were taken by speculators, and 2,500 by exporters. The market has been irregular and prices have declined ½d.@¾d. for American, ½d. for Surats, and 1d. for other kinds. The sales on Friday were 6,000 bales, including 2,000 to speculators and exporters, the market closing dull at the annexed quotations:

	Fair.	Middling.
Orleans	27d.	24d.
Mobiles	25½d.	23½d.
Uplands	25½.	23½.

The stock in port is estimated at 330,000 bales, of which 65,000 are American.

STATE OF TRADE.—The Manchester market is very dull, with a downward tendency.

BREADSTUFFS.—The Liverpool Breadstuffs market is heavy and declining. Messrs. Richardson, Spence & Co., Wakefield, Nash & Co., and Bigland, Athya & Co., report Flour dull and partially 6d. lower. American, 22/@27/6. Wheat still declining, and prices 1@2d. lower. Red Western, 9/1@9/10; Red Southern, 10/; White Western, 10/@11/; White Southern, 11/@12/. Corn easier: Mixed, 30/.

PROVISIONS.—The market has been steady. The above authorities report: Beef steady. Pork steady. Bacon irregular and still declining. Butter steady. Lard firmer but quiet; sales at 37/@39/. Tallow quiet but steady.

PRODUCE.—The Brokers' Circular reports: Ashes easier; Pots, 32/; Pearls, 34/. Rosin firm; common 24/@27/. Spirits Turpentine—Small sales at 120/. Sugar still declining and 3d. lower. Coffee firm. Rice quiet but steady. Linseed firm and unchanged. Linseed Cakes quiet and unchanged. Linseed Oil quiet but steady. Cod Oil—No sales.

LONDON MARKETS.—Baring's Circular reports: BREADSTUFFS dull but steady at unchanged rates. IRON steady. SUGAR dull and 6d. lower. COFFEE buoyant and still advancing. TEA quiet but steady. RICE inactive. SPIRITS TURPENTINE tending downward; sales at 115/. ROSIN still advancing. TALLOW firm at 44/6@45/. LINSEED OIL still advancing; sales at 44/. LINSEED CAKES heavy and tending downward. SPERM OIL quiet and unchanged. PETROLEUM dull at 20/.

AMERICAN SECURITIES are still declining: United States 5s, 59@60; do. 6s, 67@69; Illinois Central shares, 40@39 dis.; Erie shares, 40@40½.

HAVRE MARKET, Jan. 23.—COTTON: Sales of the week, 3,000 bales; market dull and easier; New-Orleans tres ordinaire, 315f.; do. bas, 3.2f. Stock, 51,000 bales.

LATEST.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 24, evening.—COTTON: Sales to-day, 5,000 bales, including 2,500 to speculators and exporters; market firmer, though quiet, but quotations unchanged.
BREADSTUFFS quiet but steady.
PROVISIONS steady and unchanged.
LONDON, Jan. 24, evening.—Consols for money 92¼.
PARIS, Jan. 24.—Bourse heavy. RENTES 69f. 90c.

THE MARKETS.

SECOND BOARD.

47,000 U. S. 6s, '81, reg.	94	700 Erie Railway	75
1,000 do.	94½	500 do.	74¾
70,000 do. '81, coup.	94	200 do. b10	74¾
9,000 do.	94	100 do. b10	75
10,500 Treas. 7 3-10 p. c. N.	102¾	300 do.	74½
5,000 U. S. Dem. Notes	152	100 do.	74¾
20,000 U. S. 6s 1-year Cer.	95¾	300 do.	74
1,000 do.	96	300 Erie Preferred	100
35,000 do.	95¾	100 do.	99
15,000 Missouri State 6s	66	100 Hudson River R.R.	94¾
15,000 Cal. 7s	130	100 do.	[illegible]
2,000 Virginia State 6s	72	100 Harlem Railroad	34½
3,000 Ills. War Loan	100	50 do. s30	34
1,000 Brook. City Wa. Lo.	110	100 do.	34
14,000 Erie 3d Mtge Bds.	113	100 Harlem R.R. Pref.	[illegible]
1,500 Tol. & Wab. 2d do.	99	100 Mich. Cent. RR.	96
7,000 A. L. & Terre Haute 2d Mge. Pref.	94	100 do.	96½
1,000 Hud. Riv. Con.	107	100 Mich. S. & N. I. RR.	58
5,000 Chic. & N. W. 2d M.	45	100 do.	58
1,000 Hud. Riv. 1st M.	118	100 do. b10	58
15,000 Chic. & N. W. 1st M.	71	100 Mich. S. & N. I. g. s.	105
20,000 American Gold	153	25 do.	105¾
175,000 do.	154	300 Clev. & Pitts. RR.	79
300,000 do.	153	100 do. b10	79
10,000 do.	153	100 do.	[illegible]
200 Cumberland Coal, pref.	15	100 do. b10	[illegible]
50 Citizens' Gas Co.	[illegible]	300 do.	[illegible]
150 Quicksilver Mining Co.	[illegible]	100 do.	67
200 Pac. Mail Steam'p Co.	171	100 do.	[illegible]
50 do. b15	[illegible]	100 do.	[illegible]
113 New-York Cen. RR.	[illegible]	100 do.	[illegible]
300 Chic. & R. I. R. R.	91	50 Gal. & Chic. R. R.	93
100 Pitts., Ft. W. & Ch. R. R.	69	100 Clev. & Tol. R. R.	[illegible]
50 do.	[illegible]	100 do.	[illegible]
150 do.	[illegible]	100 do. b30	[illegible]

Money Market

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 11—P. M.

The Stock Market to-day has been fairly active, but irregular in prices. The prominent operators are disposed to wait the result of the deliberations in Congress on the financial measures of the Government. At the Second Board the market was steady, with a dull market at the close at the following quotations: United States 6s, 1881, Coupons, 96@96¼; United States Treasury Notes, 7.3-10, 102¾@102⅞; United States 6s, 1-year Certificates, 95¾@95⅞; Demand Notes (old issue), 152⅝@152½; Tennessee State 6s, 61¾@62½; Missouri State 6s, 65¾@66; American Gold, 154¾@154¼; Pacific Mail Steamship Co., 169¾@170; N. Y. Central Railroad, 118@118⅛; Erie Railway, 74¾@74⅞; Erie Railway Preferred, 99⅞@100; Hudson River Railroad, 94¾@95¼; Harlem Railroad, 34½@35; Harlem Railroad Preferred, 70¾@70½; Michigan Central Railroad, 96¾@96½; Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana Railroad, 58¼@58½; Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana Railroad, Guaranteed, 105@106; Illinois Central Railroad, 91@92; Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad, ———93¾; Cleveland and Toledo Railroad, 93¾@93⅞; Chicago and Rock Island Railroad, 91¼@91½; Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, 108@108¼; Milwaukee and Prairie Du Chien Railroad, 40.

The foreign bill market has improved with the advance in gold. Sterling is nominally 171@172.

Freights are very dull and heavy. To Liverpool the engagements are 53,000 bush. Corn at 5¼@5½d. in bulk and bags, mainly at the inside rate; 21,000 bush. Wheat at 5½@6d. in bulk and bags, chiefly at the former rate; 300 bbls. Flour at 1s. 10½d.; 500 boxes Bacon at 20s.; and per neutral, 2,000 pkgs. Bacon, Lard, &c., at 25s.@30s., mainly at 25s.@27s. 6d. To London: 900 bbls. Flour at 2s.@2s. 3d., and per neutral, 20 bags Clover Seed at 32s. 6d. To Glasgow: 40 hhds. Tallow at 25s.

The movement in gold was very irregular. In the morning the market fell off to 152¼, but toward the close the market advanced rapidly to 156¼ under rumors that mediation had been offered by France and declined by Mr. Seward. The market afterward fell back to 151¾. Custom-House Notes have also fluctuated largely, selling between 150¼ and 152½.

ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND NAVY.—THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC for 1863 contains Tables of the entire number of Officers and Privates in the Regular and Volunteer Service—also, of the Navy Department.

[Advertisement.]

The ATLANTIC MONTHLY is pronounced by the press of America the best magazine of its class ever issued in this country. Its list of contributors includes THE BEST AMERICAN WRITERS.
Subscription price, $3 per year. Postage paid by the Publishers. Price 25 cents a number.
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Send for a Circular with critical opinions.
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No. 135 Washington-st., Boston, Mass.

[Advertisement.]

BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES.

We would call the special attention of Clergymen and Teachers to "BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES." It is well known to our readers that we do not admit medicines to our columns. We advertise these *Troches*, because, after a trial of them, we are satisfied that they are the best thing of the kind extant.—[Chicago School Journal.

[Advertisement.]

TO CONSUMPTIVES.

The advertiser, having been restored to health in a few weeks, by a very simple remedy, after having suffered several years with a severe LUNG AFFECTION, and that dread disease CONSUMPTION, is anxious to make known to his fellow-sufferers the means of cure. To all who desire it he will send a copy of the prescription used (free of charge), with directions for preparing and using the same, which they will find a sure cure for Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, &c. The only object of the advertiser in sending the prescription is to benefit the afflicted; and he hopes every sufferer may try his remedy, as it will cost them nothing and may prove a blessing. Parties wishing the prescription will please address
REV. EDWARD A. WILSON,
Williamsburgh, Kings County, N. Y.

[Advertisement.]

DIPHTHERIA.

CHATFIELD, Minn., Jan. 9, 1863.

Messrs. D. RANSOM & Co: For several years past I have held the agency of TRASK'S MAGNETIC OINTMENT, and thus became acquainted with it as a medicine, particularly in DIPHTHERIA. During the Summer and Fall of 1861, the above disease was very prevalent in and about Chatfield, assuming in many cases, great malignancy. In every case to which I was called, a free application of the Ointment was made externally, and my conviction is that it contributed largely to their recovery. I would not treat a case without it.
As an external application, it is unsurpassed for Burns, Frozen Limbs, Rheumatism, Inflamed Eyes, Asthma, Croup, Piles, and many other diseases. R. W. TWICHELL, M. D.
Sold by Druggists everywhere.

NEW-YORK WEEKLY TRIBUNE, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1863.

SOMEBODY'S LUGGAGE.

(Continued from our last.)

BY THE STEAMTRAIN.

Mr. Blorage walked up and down his dingy room on the 23d of December, 1853, with the second day of a new year's work this year, and talked with himself. As he turned, in his gait, from the fire to the door, he was talking, and which so fixed that there been a confirmed as a trifle wilfulness if could be, the contrary, he being peculiar to Mr. Blorage, and sequaciousness as a phrase in his language, and consequently, and of more of a modest and modest, so that these semi-the extreme part of the conversation, the two friends and neighbors of the former, and let go of the former, and taking advantage of the latter, he was not to be interrupted, or to be imposed upon. In fact to was the Blorage, and Blorage was, and he was aggravated from his existent childhood, but is constant by his nature, and he was not sensitive, so complained a baby never was more.

A first whisper was the only indication, and after long for hours in his cradle was, and, and, and

fans the English element prevails. This is a great and busy city, and is surrounded by a large suburban population. Here they seem to have made greater advances in the arts of civilized life than in any other part of the country through which I have passed. This I attribute chiefly to missionary influence exercised upon them not more than forty years ago. Many of the houses are well and neatly built, and would beautify any English town; and, from what I have seen of their carpenter and smith work, they are no mean workmen."

FROM JAPAN.

The Late Murders in the Tokaido—Great Mortality from the Cholera.

From Our Own Correspondent.

KANAGAWA, Oct. 24, 1862.

The full particulars of the recent attack upon a party of foreigners, while riding on a public highway, increase rather than diminish the atrocity of the affair.

From a Japanese woman, who kept a wayside inn or tea house not far from where the bloody scene was enacted, we have the following interesting account:

Richardson, after he was fatally wounded, rode his horse 200 yards, when he fell off. He managed to get upon his feet again and to reach this inn, where he sat down upon a bench at the front of the house and called for water. The woman brought him water and urged him to go to the rear of the house, where he would be safe out of sight. But Richardson, either too exhausted to comply, or, more probably, not understanding the language, remained sitting when the train again approached. The woman, fearful of what might happen, took her two children and went into the upper part of the house, from whence she could see and hear what was going on. She states that the soldiers of the train stopped and gathered around Richardson, and that when he was recognized by the chief, he ordered his followers to cut off his head. They made several attempts to seize Richardson's long beard, which he for a while parried with one hand, till that was cut off, when one seized his beard with one hand, and holding his head back, deliberately severed it with his sword in the other.

The foreign representatives, as usual, have addressed their severe letters to the Japanese Ministers, telling them how wicked it is to kill people in this way, and some day or other, if they keep on doing so, something may happen! The Gorogio, or Council of State, have very properly replied, saying that they feel very bad about it; it was naughty; but as the offenders belong to the Prince of Satzuma, they cannot punish them unless their liege lord shall choose to give them up to be punished. The vassal Princes take quite a novel and Japanese view of the affair. If, they say, the affair happened in a sudden, accidental, unpremeditated sort of way, the offenders should be punished; but if it was deliberately and by order done, they were bound to sustain the Prince of Satzuma!

It is now quite evident that if the foreigners had seized these miscreants on the day of the outrage, it not only could have been done without dangerous consequences, but the Government would have rejoiced at the act. As it is, we have the reputation of having been afraid to do our plain duty. And now, after several weeks' delay, the Japanese have produced a man who they say has been delivered up to them as the murderer of Richardson; but who is to say whether he is that man or some poor coolie or already-condemned malefactor, who is to suffer vicariously? The man the foreign Powers wish to deal with is Shimedzu Saburn himself, the chief of that train, who was consenting to the assault, and who afterward ordered the dying man to be beheaded. If he be not surrendered, his master is readily accessible in his newly-purchased merchant steamers, his fine fief of the Loo Choo Isles, or in his capital city of Kago-Sima itself, lying on the bay of the same name. A benefit would be done to the Japanese Government by curbing the power of these haughty princes, if the Government is indeed worth that help. Some steps must be taken by the foreign powers, or life becomes wholly unsafe in Japan.

While murder may thus continue to go on with impunity, no one is safe. In every instance we have been more willing to invent excuses for the crime than to punish it. In what unexpected shape, what new form, or old one repeated, the next assassination will occur, no one may foresee. So each one knows not but that he will be the next victim, for the next victim is sure not to be waited for long. We already have the disagreeable alternative offered to us of remaining prisoners within our own settlement, or to go abroad within the limits guarantied by treaty at every peril of life.

The cholera, which has raged to an alarming extent, subsides with the approach of cool weather. In Yokohama, it is estimated that there have been 400 deaths in a population of 12,000. In Yedo, during a period of five or six weeks, ending with the 1st of October, according to reports made from the temples, the interments reached the enormous number of 224,000. One can hardly believe this amount has not been exaggerated, yet other circumstances go to show how great the mortality must have been. As, for instance, it is a custom to wash the famous bridge of "Nipon Bas" after the crossing of each hundred funerals. This washing or purification, for days together, was repeated four or five times daily. So great was the mortality that bodies lay unburned or unburied for days; funeral processions jostled each other in the street, and disputed precedence in the way; the priesthood were worn out with their extra labors at the burial; all distinctions of sect were forgotten, and the Government was compelled to provide for thousands of the poor. The cholera followed an epidemic of measles, which in a period of eight weeks swept off 75,000 souls—the mortality bearing a proportion to the sick of one to eight. Some of the Court physicians came to Yokohama during the height of the cholera to propound some interrogatories to the physician of a French man-of-war. After the conference had been opened with due gravity and decorum, the first question put was, "What is the beginning, nature, and end of cholera?"—rather a tough question for a simple, direct answer, except the latter clause, which might all be summed up in that one formidable monosyllable, death. The mortality among the foreign residents was limited to a single case.

Despite the busy work of death, the lively Japanese would have their fun, and I saw a caricature published at Yedo entitled the "Measles War." Measles, a grim monarch with an eruptive body, surrounded by his allies, all the ills that flesh is heir to, is holding a fierce war with those people of Yedo whose occupation has been broken in upon by the spread of the disease. Fever is recognized by his ruddy face; Cholera by his ghastly countenance; Headache by his bound-up brows; Cough by his open mouth and throat, and so on. Ranged against them are the pleasure boatmen with helmets of boat shape, the fishermen wearing helmets of crab shell, while the playgoers, the actors, the courtesans, and their friends, arrayed under a huge watermelon for a banner, are busily engaged in summarily ejecting from their premises a whole tribe of muskmelons, hard pears, shell fish, and prawns, as allies of King Measles, Cholera & Co. An apothecary, half buried amid his drugs, exhibits in his face the liveliest sympathy for the latter.

The first full cargo of tea direct for New-York left this port on the 10th inst., in the bark Benefactor. Another full cargo goes this week in the Storm Cloud to San Francisco. Trade is moderately active, though the dollar is reduced one-third of its value compared with the local currency. While the merchants suffer from this, the foreign representatives reap a rich harvest out of the exchange of ichibus allowed to them by the Japanese Government, but not to the trader. In this manner they are subsidized by the Japanese Government to an amount greater than the salaries paid them by their own Governments. Is this favorable to a betterment of the currency question, which now drags so heavily on trade? H.

Reforms in the Empire—Intrigues Among the Nobility—Parties in Japan—Attempts to Restore the Mikado's Temporal Sovereignty—The Daimios urged to Retrenchment, and to Cultivate the Arts of War.

From Our Own Correspondent.

KANAGAWA, Nov. 20, 1862.

Nothing is so difficult to understand in Japan as the peculiar complex character of its political institutions. The knowledge of to-day seems contradicted by the events of to-morrow. To foretell what will be is impossible; to be sure of what has happened is not always attainable. That an extraordinary ferment is now at work in the country among its ruling classes we all know by what is occasionally thrown to the surface. A revolution, if not a reform of ideas, is going on, thus far peaceably, but at times threatening more serious results. When I speak of the governing classes, I include comprehensively all those known in Japan as the *nihon sasi ifto*, "the two sword wearers," as the term literally implies, for all these belong to the aristocracy of Japan, whether petty chiefs in their own right, or the retainers of those chiefs, for the stability of the Tycoon's Government depends upon the fealty of these men. The ambitious nobility of the empire, ever full of intrigue, were never more full of it than at the present moment. There is first the progressive party, who, either coveting foreign intercourse or viewing it as an inevitable necessity, wisely seek to make the best of it. This party is happily represented by the reigning family, which we believe has grown strong by its position, by the revenue derived from foreign trade, by the knowledge gained in this intercourse of those arts of both peace and war which subserve for the better rule of the land, and by attaching to it a class of men in Japan by no means small, who, truly patriotic, are sincerely desirous to profit their country by whatsoever is to be gained by intercourse with more enlightened peoples. Then there is a class, always large in any country, which attaches itself to the party in power, and which in Japan is numerically large, consisting of the many small Daimios, who are singly too weak to have any pretensions of their own. Thus, fortunately for Japan and the countries with whom she has treaties, the Tycoon's Government is, single-handed, more powerful than any one of the nineteen great Daimios of the realm, or any two or three of them, and would, in case of any rebellion against its authority, be probably able to secure to its aid a share of these great chiefs. If the Government has thus far been slow to exercise any power over these independent chiefs, let us hope it is because it is confident of its strength to peacefully carry out its aims of a dominant Central Government.

Of the men who have been signal supporters of the present family and the foreign treaties, two have suddenly disappeared. One of these, Eo Kanon-no-Kami, the late Regent, was assassinated under the palace walls; the other, the Prime Minister, Ando-Tsusima-no-Kami, has been removed and disgraced for malversation of office; but, though deprived of these able men, the Government moves unflinchingly on.

Opposed to the present reigning family are, 1st, rival aspirants to the throne, of whom Mito's family is most conspicuous; 2d, those Daimios who, through selfish interest or fear, are hostile to foreign intercourse. There is a third class, adherents of the Mikado or Spiritual Emperor, who are jealous of the growing centralizing power of the Tycoon's Court at Yedo, and in their zeal for the former, only show their fear of the latter. Indeed, of late much has been said of the resumption by the Mikado of his ancient rights lost under the grasp of Taiko-Sama, and there is no doubt of the formation of a considerable party who under this pretense seek to cover their own ambitious designs. The Prince of Satzuma has the credit of being the master spirit of this intrigue. Thus the country has been full of reports of the machinations of one or the other of these parties. One day Mito is dead and the next is heard of as an active plotter against the throne and foreigners. To-day the Emperor is poisoned and to-morrow the Mikado repudiates the treaties and demands that his faithful leaguers shall "wipe out as with a sponge every foreigner from the land."

Amid all these rumors, there have been events of no slight significance in the history of this people. Let us rehearse some of them.

Some months since the Tycoon issued a proclamation enjoining upon all Daimios throughout the Empire to lop off from their establishments all that idle horde of retainers who rendered them no service, and who, in obedience only to useless custom, had been so long a charge upon their bounty. They were further enjoined to introduce the practice and drill in firearms among their followers, and that for the furtherance of this object the old loose flowery garments should be discarded for close fitting ones, not exactly European garments, but a compromise between those and their former ones.

This has lately been followed by a more striking innovation in dress. Since the accession of the present dynasty, now three hundred years ago, the Court dress has been one of the most cumbrous and inconvenient imaginable. Trowsers half a yard too long, trailed behind the wearer, hampering his feet and giving him the appearance of shuffling into Court on his knees; over these was a stiffly starched upper robe, with projecting wings, which did for the arms what the trowsers did for the feet, impede their use, a custom which it is said originated not without its reason in troubled times when a royal interview might be converted into a royal assassination. An imperial decree has within the past month abolished this awkward dress, and allows ceremonious interviews between all ranks of officials, beginning with the Tycoon, in ordinary apparel. Not only this, but the long trains which have hitherto attended the visits of the imperial councilors to the citadel are done away with to a large extent, and the sight is now to be had any day in Yedo of a Governor riding through the streets on horseback unattended except by his groom. Even royalty and its Ministers are no longer hedged about, but are accessible to the complaints of its humblest subjects.

Promotions to the Imperial service are no longer made exclusively from the "two sword wearers," but for merit also. I was gratified, a few days ago, in seeing on the street at the head of a body of armed attendants a young man whom I knew two years ago as only a zealous student of foreign arts and sciences.

A year ago the Imperial Council of Five, sitting in its own exclusive dignity, was accessible only to foreign ministers; the week past they have had familiar interviews with consuls and civilians, and on board the U. S. steamer Wyoming hob-nobbed indifferently with officers of any grade, or no officers at all. The Government has ordered, through the American Minister, Gen. R. H. Pruyn, to be constructed in America, two sloops-of-war of 24 guns each, and one gunboat; and in addition to these has ordered the latest improved cannon and small-arms, with a machine for rifling cannon and a teacher of the military art. The Emperor's summer gardens on the bay have been converted into a parade and practice ground.

Two or three days since the American Minister and Consul and the officers of the Wyoming were invited to a military review at Yedo of some of the Imperial troops. Eight companies of infantry and one of artillery were paraded, numbering a hundred to each. The evolutions and practice firing are spoken of as equal to any seen on similar occasions in other countries.

I have mentioned in previous letters the visit of a legate from the Mikado to the Tycoon's court, which was the cause of many surmises as to its object. It now appears to have been for the arrangement of a visit by the Tycoon to the Mikado's court, in accordance with an ancient custom long since fallen into desuetude. After many envoys have passed back and forth between the two courts, it is at last settled that the young Emperor is to leave Yedo for Miaco in the second month of the new Japanese year, which will be early next Spring. A reluctant assent was given to this visit by the Court of Yedo, and their giving it at last is not clearly reconcileable with the Tycoon's supposed independence of the Court at Miaco. Motives of prudential policy may have controlled him, however, in the present disturbed state of affairs, not to create any unnecessary offense. The mass of the people in Japan believe in the temporal supremacy of the Mikado, and the time may not have come when it is thoroughly safe to irritate their prejudices.

From olden time the custom has been that when royalty travels the great highways of the empire, great expense must be undertaken to smooth the roads, repair the bridges, and prepare the way, which expense was at the cost of the different districts through which the road may run. The inns, too, had all to be refitted, new mats and screens purchased, to befit the distinguished guest. But already proclamation has gone forth that in the intended visit to Miaco, the Emperor will not burden the people with the cost of maintaining a large retinue, nor does he require roads or bridges to be repaired except in absolutely dangerous places, nor shall the inns be put to the expense of new furniture. He will travel unostentatiously, making the official residences in any town where he halts his resting places, and if these are wanting, he will go to the temples, so many of which owe their landed tenures to Imperial bounty, thus imitating what the humblest wayfarers often do.

If Yedo has not its Court Journal, like other Courts, the being and doings of the Imperial family are widely proclaimed. It is now formally announced that the young Empress is *enceinte*; that the Emperor has taken two concubines—young ladies of distinguished birth and beauty—and has adopted as his son a lad of ten years, belonging to one of the houses in the royal succession. This ancient custom, so that the King may never fail an heir to the throne, is said to have been observed in this instance to placate, in the person chosen, the hostile family of Prince Mito. H.

Further Reforms in Japan—The Princes and Nobility Resident in Yedo Ordered to Retire to Their Provinces—Depopulation of the City—The City Governor Mobbed and the Order Countermanded.

From Our Special Correspondent.

KANAGAWA, Nov. 22, 1862.

Perhaps the most important of all these changes at work at this moment in Japan has been the breaking up of the residuary system of the Daimio chiefs at Yedo, which was the most remarkable and unique feature of this singular Government. Any one at all acquainted with the history of Japan remembers the curious system of control exercised over the vassal princes, by requiring their residence at the court of Yedo every alternate year, and that of their families all the time, hostages, as it were, for their keeping the peace of the realm. The expense of these continued removals from town to country and country to town, moving, as these princes always did, with numerous retinues, as well as the support of their town-houses in becoming state, was ever no small burden upon their revenues. Some of these chiefs were nearly impoverished by the cost of such pageantry on the road and the maintenance of their position at court, which was doubtless one of the results sought for by the founder of the system to deplete his rebellious lieges to a state of incapacity for political disturbances.

A royal decree was promulgated a month since breaking up this long-established system, and the great body of the Daimios were ordered to break up their town establishments, send their families into their provinces, and to prepare to speedily follow themselves. Henceforth they would be required to appear at court only once in three years, some of them at yet longer intervals, and then for a period of a hundred days only at one time. Exception to this was made with some of the smaller chiefs, who were retained to assist in the administration of the affairs of the Tycoon's Government. They were again enjoined to dismiss from their service all superfluous servants, and to limit their hitherto enormous retinues, when in the street or on the road.

Since this edict affected directly the condition of a quarter of a million of people at least, it was an innovation of no small magnitude. As may be well imagined, the threatened removal of so large a body of the inhabitants of Yedo at once, spread consternation among property holders, craftsmen, and all the mass of people who lived so largely upon the supply of these princely establishments. Ruin stared half the population of Yedo in the face. The thriving trades people, the street and house laborers, artisans of every kind, the multitudinous fishermen of the bay, industrious and poor, were not only threatened with loss of employment, but many thousands of discharged retainers were likely to be cast adrift to seek a livelihood where the sources of living were so cut off. Nay, even those honest burghers whose daughters had found agreeable and lucrative employment in the now-to-be-abandoned palaces, whether as maids of honor to the ladies of the household, or mistresses to the lord or his chief vassals, found their families likely to be returned upon them, and while some came back not empty handed, the most brought back only their own diminished charms. Already the long trains were moving out in the tokaido, winding their course back into the country, as they carried away the ladies of the dismantled households, who, from their norimon windows, looked back with regretful eyes upon the long familiar roofs of the city. Born and dwelling amid the luxuries of the town, they had the common female heart to look down with contempt upon the solitude and privations of the country life to which they were returning. The feudal castle of the prince was a poor exchange for the palace at court. Lost to them would be the city's thronging streets, the afternoon at the tea-garden, the evening at the play-house, the rural visits to the suburbs, the boat excursions on the "great river" which rolls through the center of the city, bearing on its surface its daily crowd of pleasure-boats. No more of the picturesque sights of the mistress of the household, with her train of gayly-dressed maidens, visiting their favorite temples on a fête day, or going to the temple cemeteries to strew flowers upon the household graves. To the city had gathered all the luxuries of the empire, all the curious productions of native art, the cunning work of the hand, the skillful fabrications of the loom—luxuries they would miss in the old castle, in the interior hills, or by the distant sea shore. Many were the long days the high-born ladies passed among their maids, skillfully embroidering on costly silks and satins the newest patterns the taste or fancy of the court had evoked; and as they worked merrily they discussed the story of yesterday's theater, or the gossip of the tea-gardens. So it was that, regretful as Eves, they were leaving their paradise.

But Hosokawa, the doughty chief from Kiusiu's isle, laughs to naught the imperial order, for Hosokawa boasts a long lineage and the best disciplined soldiery of the Empire. His family have lived at Court for centuries, and there [illegible] lives, and worn such robes of silk and garments of ceremony, in accordance with old custom. He has been a faithful vassal of the crown, and pledges himself by all the valor of Nipon's ancient heroes that he will keep in quiet his end of the kingdom, to wit, Kiusiu's isle, though even Satzuma himself should grow turbulent in his kingly city of Kagosima.

It was not a representative man of the extreme nobility that alone opposed the innovations, for the aristocracy and the populace here met on common grounds. The discontent of the Yedo people at the prospect of ruin to their houses and starvation for their families took decided action. In imperial Yedo, a city of palaces and armed soldiery such as no other city in the world has, there was a mob of the people. The city governor was besieged in his house, which was being rapidly reduced by the people's artillery, showers of paving stones, when he effected his escape in the disguise of a woman. The clamors daily grew greater, and threatened serious consequences to Emperor and nobility alike, when another royal edict illumines the walls of Yedo and lightens the hearts of the people. The order for the removal of the Daimios is countermanded, the trains no longer go thronging out of the city, barred gates and closed windows are thrown open to the sunlight, and the people give themselves up for a day and night to rejoicings, feastings, processions, and illuminations.

Strangely like a reform movement in Japan this all seems, yet there are grave Japanese heads which are shaken ominously, while their lips whisper this is all a delusion: that which is thus put forth as the act of the Government, is the act of those old lords and barons of the empire emancipating themselves from onerous subjection to the controlling power at Yedo. It is they who have refused to keep up ceremonious observances for the exaltation of the Tycoon's Court; they who have refused to impoverish themselves with a burdensome tax for the support of idle servants and useless retainers, to make a show in the imperial city; they who have refused to spend all their lives and exhaust their incomes in traveling from town to city and city to town again, living half the years away from wives and children, and maintaining a double household; they, too, who have of late been thrusting forth anew the pretensions of the Mikado as the true and only Emperor to whom allegiance was due, hoping to return to the old days when the Mikado was sovereign in Miaco, and they were each sovereigns in their own provinces and kept their own Court. Nay, some even dare to whisper that the intended visit of the Tycoon to the Mikado is a forced concession on the part of the former of the real sovereignty of the latter, and will result in his abdication of the throne; that such a result will not come about peaceably, and that before six moons have come and gone, we shall see the flames of civil war light up the empire.

But mauger all these croakings, if possibly true prophesy though they may be, let us regard them rather as the usual doubts and fears of old conservatism, and be hopeful that Japan is really moving forward by the aid of a strong government in the march of empire.

Another show of enlightenment on the part of the Government is the degradation in the social scale of the whole class of courtesans, and those who live by the traffic in virtue, to the lowest grade. Formerly they stood third, now they are ranked below the play-actor, the wandering street performers, and placed on a level with the leather-workers and the lowest class of beggars. A sumptuary regulation of recent issue forbids them any longer to wear silks, satins, or woolens, and confines them to cotton. Hence the proprietor of one of the famous establishments at Sinagawa, who boasts that in his houses alone are one hundred and fifty of these poor girls, was in the foreign settlement a few days since to buy two hundred pieces of gray muslin, to be dyed and made into dresses for the accustomed New-Year's gift of a new dress to each.

One feature of the change passing upon this people is too significant to be overlooked, and that is, the eagerness with which of late steamers and sailing vessels have been sought for. Beside those already mentioned as ordered by the Government, the Daimios have purchased several steamers heretofore employed in the China and Japan trade. Among those lately purchased are the St. Louis, French build but American owners, the Fiery Cross, Lancefield, and Tinkee, English build, and the Columbia, an American steamer, well known on the California coast. The prices realized have been from $90,000 to $150,000. Beside these, lately sold at $14,300, was the Gov. Wallace, formerly known as the revenue cutter Jeff. Davis. Its name and antecedents were no drawback to the sale, evidently, from the large price obtained. There seems to be a competitive desire among the great Daimios to be steamer owners, and nice pick-pockets some of these old craft will prove to them.

The steamer Scotland, flying the Prussian flag, is here taking in freight and passengers for San Francisco. She is the pioneer of steam communication between China, Japan and the Pacific Coast of America. Her enterprising charterers, who are Americans, waiting for no subsidy from the Government, have thus taken the initiative to establish regular steam communication with the two continents. We hope the success of the Scotland may justify them in carrying out their intention of adding other steamers at once to the route. The Scotland carries a general cargo of China and Japan goods, teas forming a large share. It is a little singular to know that the supplying the wants of the Chinese population of California forms a large feature in the inducements to establish a regular line, and this may account why the enterprise has begun on the Asiatic side. The schooner Storm Cloud sailed for San Francisco in October, wholly laden with Japan tea. The brig Josephine sailed a fortnight since laden partly with Japan teas, but mostly with re-exports of American cottons from China to America.

The Wyoming leaves this on the 23d inst. for Shanghae. Officers and crew all well. H.

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

Excerpta of Things Useful in all Households....II.

WRINGING MACHINES are among the necessities of every household. No woman who washes a dozen garments a week can afford to do without one. The name, however, is inaccurate. They are not wringing machines. The water is squeezed out of the cloth by passing it between a pair of gum-elastic rollers. We prefer those with wooden frames. The cost is from $5 to $10 each.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS are to be found more or less commonly around every farm-house. Sometimes the cause is in a foul drain or cesspool, and oftener in decaying vegetables in the cellar. Stagnant water in the cellar is a great breeder of disease. Let there always be a free passage of air through the cellar by taking out the windows so that the air can circulate freely and keep it healthy. If there are stagnant ponds near your dwellings, they should be drained. Remove as far as you can every cause of disease; be temperate and regular in all your habits, avoid exposure, and be careful about eating.

POISONS are numerous, and often lurk unsuspected about many dwellings, tending to produce sickness. Among other poisons we enumerate Oxalic Acid, used in solution for cleaning brass and removing stains from linen, which is a virulent poison. Lime forms an insoluble compound with it, and proves the best antidote where it has been taken into the stomach.

Among vegetable poisons we find the Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), and the Dwarf or Sheep Laurel (*K. augustifolia*). These not only are eaten by animals, but the leaves are mistaken by children for wintergreen, and we have known serious cases of poisoning to result.

Poison Sumach (*Rhus venenata*) and Poison Vine or Poison Ivy (*R. toxicodendron*) produce excessive irritation of the skin, and even blistering from contact, with most persons, and some are so sensitive that the odor only of the first or its smoke in burning produces most painful results. The Wild or Poison Parsnip has a similar effect upon some persons, and some very delicate skins are affected by the garden parsnip. The effect is hightened when the leaves are covered with dew; when dried they may be handled with safety.

Water Hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*) is a virulent poison. From the form of its inflorescence and the aromatic odor of its seeds and root it is sometimes mistaken for sweet cicely by children. Pains should be taken to extirpate it wherever found, as also to prevent the spread of a similar plant, a foreigner, Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*). [illegible] the Larkspur, Monkshood, and Foxglove.

Opium, the product of the poppy, in some form, either as laudanum or elixir, is a very frequent means of poisoning. These medicines are too powerful to be trusted in ignorant hands, as the yearly record of fatal accidents sadly attests.

The green color on wall-paper and on cards attached to various dry goods, often contains arsenic, a single square inch having enough to destroy a child. Green wall-paper is unfit for use, especially for sleeping rooms. The exhalation from such walls has been known to sicken the occupants.

The frequent use of poisonous colors upon candy or children's playthings demands the utmost caution on the part of parents. The red, green, yellow, and blue colors may all be harmless, but fatal cases of poisoning and the examination of chemists prove that the grossest ignorance or the deepest depravity prevails with some makers and venders.

Copper, in all its forms, is poisonous. Acid or greasy food allowed to stand in copper or brass vessels readily corrodes them, and proves their unfitness for such uses. The metallic or brassy taste of the articles usually affords reasonable warning.

Common black writing ink, made of nutgalls and iron, is not poisonous, but the blue ink has a different composition, and is so in a greater or less degree. Indelible ink, and also hair dyes having nitrate of silver as the essential ingredient, are poisonous. Corrosive sublimate used in alcohol as a bedbug poison, should never be kept in families, as it has been the cause of very many accidents.

Phosphorus, an ingredient in friction matches, is a deadly poison. Too much caution cannot be used to keep them away from small children, who will put anything in their mouths. The free use of warm water will not only favor the vomiting which may ensue from the action of the poison itself, but as a diluent it may serve to weaken its power and render it comparatively harmless. Common table mustard is a very prompt emetic. The dose is a teaspoonful of dry mustard; stir this in a tumbler of water and drink at one draught. It is quick, sure, and agreeable as any emetic. If some remains in the stomach it does no harm. In a few cases some antidote may neutralize the poisonous substance in the stomach, but the main dependence must be in removing *immediately* its contents, either by an emetic, or better by the stomach pump. Vegetable acids, as vinegar, are good antidotes to many of the vegetable poisons, yet no rules can be given upon which it would be safe to rely without medical assistance.

BEE STINGS AND MUSKETO BITES.—We have often cured the poison of bee stings and relieved the pain almost instantly by an application of spirits of hartshorn (liquid ammonia). If that is not convenient, wet the skin and apply powdered saleratus or sal soda, which gives to some persons instant relief. The same remedies things may be applied with success for musketo bites upon children or others, when they are particularly poisonous. Somebody has published a statement that if a piece of rawbeef is placed in a room infested with musketoes, they will all suck the beef and let the people alone.

SNAKE BITES AND REMEDIES.—The most virulent and fatal of all poisons, excepting always the poison of bad ventilation, comes from snake bites, which are inflicted occasionally in the new settlements of our country. We have known death to occur in several cases for want of a little knowledge of remedies at hand. One remedy is to drink whisky or any spirit, as soon as possible, enough to produce insensibility. Another remedy is to kill a chicken, or any other animal, and cut it open and apply the warm flesh to the wound, holding it fast, and renewing it when it loses the animal heat. Another is a poultice of equal parts of raw onion, tobacco, and salt, mashed together, moistened with whisky, and bound on tight and frequently renewed. Sweet or olive oil we know to be a very valuable remedy, taken in half-gill doses, and with cloths soaked in oil bound upon the bitten spot. We earnestly recommend a trial of the following remedy: Wet a bunch of lint with a teaspoonful of chloroform and lay it on the bite, and cover it with a watch crystal, a wine glass, or a tumbler, pressed down so as to exclude the air, and hold it there fifteen to thirty minutes. It will probably raise a blister, and prove so painful that the pain of the poison will not be felt.

Talk About Fruit.

'Tis thus an hour is weekly spent,
On fruit improvement, all intent.

The Fruit Growers' Club, which meets weekly at No. 41 Park row, have now under consideration a list of grapes suited to the vicinity of New-York. It is proposed to name three for general cultivation, of well-tried sorts, and three others that promise well, or, as some members propose, sorts suited to particular localities. At the meeting held Thursday, January 22, nearly all of the talk was devoted to this Grape question, without arriving at any conclusion. The following are some of the views expressed:

PETER B. MEAD (editor of *The Horticulturist*) would recommend for general cultivation, Delaware, Concord, and Isabella, rating them as named in their order of excellence. Instead of Isabella he would have named Creveling, if it was older and more established, as it is a better grape, hardier, more productive, with larger bunches, ten days earlier and ripening more evenly. The Diana is a good grape but ripens too unevenly, and is subject to disease, but good upon old vines, when well ripened. So is Catawba, but is not reliable. What we want, in recommending grapes for general cultivation, is sorts that will stand hard usage.

Of course an amateur list would embrace better sorts. He would name as promising well, and worthy of recommendation for general cultivation, the three following: Creveling, Allyn's Hybrid, and Cayboga. These are not yet much before the public—the others are. The Delaware is a sort that bears high manuring and good care, and is then very productive. He exhibited a painting of a bunch grown in his garden that weighed 20 ounces.

THOS. W. FIELDS objected to the term "promises well." He could not say that of the Isabella, which had been grown here for sixty years, and is a first-rate sort for particular localities, but not for general cultivation. He thought more money had been lost and grape culture put back more by the Isabella than by all other causes. He would name for general cultivation the Delaware, Concord, Hartford Prolific, and for special localities, Diana, Catawba, and Isabella.

ANDREW S. FULLER named for the first three sorts, Delaware, Concord, Hartford Prolific, and for the second three, either as promising well or for special localities, Creveling, Cayboga, Iona.

Mr. MEAD objected to naming Iona, because the vines are not yet in market. It is one of the most promising grapes of all the new sorts; it originated with Dr. Grant, and he is propagating it, but has not yet offered it to the public, and all advertisements saying it is for sale are swindles. It is certainly a grape that promises well.

WM. S. CARPENTER named as his first choice Concord, Delaware, Hartford Prolific. He named Concord first because it was a sort that was better adapted to universal use than Delaware. For the second part of the list he would name Iona first, if it is for sale, next Allyn's Hybrid, and Cayboga.

Mr. CAVANAGH of Brooklyn named as his first choice Delaware, Concord, Hartford Prolific, and Mr. HICKS Delaware, Concord, Diana, and for second list, Creveling, Allyn's Hybrid, Cayboga.

Dr. WARD named Concord first, because it thrives well under all circumstances, and in the Northern and Middle States always ripens, and bears neglect better than the Isabella, or any other sort, and is a good grape for the table, and good for wine; it grows in all soils, and does not need as high culture as Delaware, which he names second and Diana, third, leaving Isabella out altogether. Hartford Prolific ripens early but is not equal to Concord. Orange Judd, (Ed. *Agriculturist*,) gave the same list for the same reasons.

SOLON ROBINSON named Delaware first, because it is the best of all; Concord second, because it is a good grape, early, hardy, easily propagated; Hartford Prolific, third, because it is early, productive, hardy, a rampant grower, and will give general satisfaction.

R. G. PARDEE named Delaware, Concord, Diana; and for the second three, Hartford Prolific, Allyn's Hybrid, Isabella. He named the last because it certainly is very valuable in certain localities, and because it is so established in public favor that the public will not agree to any list that leaves it out.

Mr. HICKS said that he had an Isabella that had not failed to produce a good crop every year for twenty years. The reason is, that it is trained upon the south side of a house, and carefully pruned and manured highly.

SOLON ROBINSON said that was exactly the situation of the original vine in Brooklyn, and it was the situation that had given character to the fruit and tempted so many people to propagate from it, only to fall in less favorable situations to get the same kind of fruit.

We have given these views of several persons, who are supposed to know something about what sorts will succeed, as some guide to those who are desirous of planting vines in the Spring.

At the next meeting a vote will be taken upon adopting a list of each three out of those named.

A Thrilling Incident of the War.

Nine or ten years ago, a citizen of one of the towns in the eastern part of Massachusetts was unjustly suspected of a crime which the statute cannot easily reach, but which deservedly brings upon him guilty of it the indignation of upright men. There were circumstances which gave color to [illegible] the misery of loss of friends, business and reputation. His sensitive nature could not face these trials, and he fell into a condition of body and mind which alarmed his family. At length, having invested his property where it could be easily managed by his wife, he suddenly disappeared, leaving her a comfortable home and the care of two boys, 10 and 12 years old. The first fear that he had sought a violent death was partly dispelled by the orderly arrangement of his affairs, and the discovery that a daguerreotype of the family group was missing from the parlor table. Not much effort was made to trace the fugitive. When, afterward, facts were developed which established his innocence of the crime charged, it was found impossible to communicate with him; and as the publication of the story in the columns of several widely circulated journals failed to recall him, he was generally supposed to be dead.

At the outbreak of the present civil war his oldest son, now a young man, was induced by a friend, a Captain in a Western regiment, to enlist in his company. He carried himself well through campaigns in Missouri and Tennessee, and after the capture of Fort Donelson was rewarded with a First Lieutenant's commission. At the battle of Murfreesboro he was wounded in the left arm, but so slightly that he was still able to take charge of a squad of wounded prisoners. While performing the duty he became aware that one of them, a middle-aged man, with a full heavy beard, was looking at him with fixed attention. The day after the fight, as the officer was passing, the soldier gave the military salute, and said:

"A word with you, if you please sir. You remind me of an old friend. Are you from New-England?"

"I am."

"From Massachusetts?"

"Yes."

"And your name?"

The young Lieutenant told his name and why he came to serve in a Western regiment.

"I thought so," said the other, and turning away he was silent. Although his curiosity was much excited by the soldier's manner, the officer forbore to question him and withdrew. But in the afternoon he took occasion to renew the conversation, and expressed the interest awakened in him by the incident of the morning.

"I knew your father," said the prisoner. "Is he well?"

"We have not seen him for years. We think he is dead."

Then followed such an explanation of the circumstances of his disappearance as the young man could give. He had never known the precise nature of the charges against his father, but was able to make it quite clear that his innocence had been established.

"I knew your mother, also," continued the soldier. "I was in love with her when she married your father."

"I have a letter from her, dated ten days ago. My brother is a nine months man at New-Orleans."

After a little desultory conversation, the soldier took from under his coat a leathern wallet, and disclosed a daguerreotype case. The hasp was gone, and the corners were rounded by wear.

"Will you oblige me," he said, "by looking at this alone in your tent?" Agitated almost beyond control, the young officer took the case and hurried away. He had seen the picture before! It represented a man and a woman, sitting side by side, with a boy at the knee of each.

The romantic story moved the commander of the division to grant the youth a furlough; and both father and son reached home last week.

[Worcester Spy.

A California Story.

In the northern part of this State (California) is a stream called Yuba River. Across it some enterprising individual built a bridge; and on the banks somebody else built three or four houses. The inhabitants called the place Yuba Dam. Three bars were instantly erected, and the "town" increased rapidly. About noon one cool day a traveler and a sojourner in the land passed this flourishing locality, and seeing a long-legged specimen of humanity in a red shirt smoking before one of the bars, thus addressed him:

"Hello!"

"Hello!" replied the shirt, with vigor, removing his pipe from his mouth.

"What place is this?" demanded the traveler, whose name was Thompson.

The answer of the shirt was unexpected:

"Yuba Dam!"

There was about fifty yards between them, and the wind was blowing. Mr. Thompson thought he had been mistaken.

"What did you say?" he asked.

"Yuba Dam," replied the stranger, cheerfully.

"What place is this?" roared Mr. Thompson.

"Yu-ba Dam!" said the shirt, in a slightly elevated tone of voice.

"Lookee here!" yelled the irate Thompson, "I asked you politely what place this was: why in thunder don't you answer?"

The stranger became excited. He rose and replied with the voice of an 80-pounder:

"Yu-ba-dam! Do you hear that?"

In a minute Thompson, burning with the wrath of the righteous, jumped off his horse and advanced on the stranger with an expression not to be mistaken. The shirt arose and assumed a posture of offense and defense.

Arrived within a yard of him, Thompson said: "I ask you, for the last time, what place is this?"

Putting his hands to his mouth, his opponent roared:

"Yu-ba-dam!"

The next minute they were at it. First, Thompson was down; then the shirt; and then it was a dog fall—that is, both were down. They rolled about, kicking up a tremendous dust. They squirmed around so energetically, that you'd have thought they had a dozen legs instead of four. It looked like a prize-fight between two pugilistic centipedes. Finally, they both rolled off the bank and into the river. The water cooled them. They went down together, but came up separate, and put out for the shore. Both reached it about the same time, and Thompson scrambled up the bank, mounted his warlike steed, and made tracks, leaving his foe gouging the mud out of one of his eyes.

Having left the business portion of the town—that is to say, the corner where the three bars were kept—he struck a house in the suburbs, before which a little girl of about four years of ago was playing.

"What place is this, Sissy?" he asked.

The little girl, frightened at the drowned-rat figure which the stranger cut, streaked it for the house. Having reached the door she stopped—turned, and squealed—"Ob-bee-dam!"

"Good Heavens!" said Thompson, digging his heels between his horse's ribs—"Good Heavens! let me get out of this horrid place, where not only the men but the very babes and sucklings swear at inoffensive travelers!"

The President's Gun.

At a great Unconditional Union Meeting at St. Louis a few evenings since, the following spirited verses were read:

RATIFY! ratify!—Ratify what?
The President's Proclamation!
The heaviest gun that has yet been fired
At the enemies of the nation.
"Dahlgrens" or "Unions" are nothing like it,
Those enemies to bother;
It ranges and carries across the whole land,
From one extreme to the other.

Hurrah! hurrah! for the President's gun—
Well named "The Proclamation!"
'T was made of the metal of stern resolve,
And run in the hearts of the nation.
Already the cheeks of each traitor host
Are white as their staple cotton;
For they find that their boasted "corner-stone"
Was made of a rock that is rotten.

Henceforth let the President's gun advance
With the armies of the nation;
And morning and evening they'll all salute
The "rifled" Proclamation.
And in future years, as the Stars and Stripes
In peace float out above it,
We'll strive to teach the erring hosts,
Who hate it now, to love it.

W. D. GALLAHER.

Prices in Richmond.

The Richmond Whig of the 24th ult. has the following market report:

At Messrs. Robinson, Adams & Co.'s auction sale to-day the following prices were obtained:

Brown sugar, in bbls. and half-bbls., [illegible]; molasses, $9 37 ℘ gallon; Virginia salt, 31c. ℘ lb; coffee, $4 25 ℘ lb; green tea, $10 75 ℘ lb; rice, 8c.; tallow candles, [illegible]; wax do., $2 67@$3 25; brooms, $24@28 ℘ dozen; cotton yarns, $7@$7 12½; [illegible] osnaburgs, [illegible]; lard, $1; cotton-seed oil, $8 25@$9; machine oil, $4 75; shoe thread, $6 37; peanuts, $11 ℘ bush.—$1 25 for the bag; smoking tobacco, 33@36c.; do. "Killikinick," 70c.; manufactured tobacco, 34@36c. for common, 50@75c. for medium, [illegible] for good and fine; block matches, $9 50@$9 62 ℘ gross; [illegible] ℘ lb; calfskins, $26 [illegible]; super carb soda, $4 60@$4 95; sal soda, $1 65; nails, $46 ℘ keg, &c.

REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY.—THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC for 1863 contains a table showing the value of real and personal estate in all the States and Territories in 1860, compared with 1850.

MARRIED.

BUNCE—KNELLER—In Baltimore, on Thursday, Jan. 29, by the Rev. Mr. Calloway, Oliver B. Bunce of New-York to Kate C., daughter of John C. Kneller, esq., of the former place. No cards.

CROSS—SIMPSON—At Mamaroneck, on Sunday, Feb. 1, by the Rev. Charles Fletcher, Richard S. Cross of New-York City, to Sarah J. Simpson of London, Canada West.

DE MUNN—BISHOP—In Bainbridge, N. Y., on Thursday, Feb. 5, 1863, B. M. De Munn of New-York, to [illegible] A., daughter of Elisha Bishop, esq., of the former place. No cards.

POTTS—MEAD—At Chicago, on Thursday, Feb. [illegible], by the Rev. Dr. Bishop, Richard Potts to Miss Josephine Mead. No cards issued.

PAGE—IMMS—In London, England, on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1862, at St. Martin's Church, George P. Page, of this city, to Emma, daughter of Mr. Thomas Imms, of the former place.

PECK—DAYTON—At Ridgewood, New-Jersey, on Tuesday, Feb. 3, by the Rev. J. Tuttle Smith, William G. Peck, Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy, Columbia College, to Ida, daughter of the late William O. Dayton, of this city.

REHLING—SUTHERLAND—At the Lutheran Church, Ramapo, Rockland County, on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 1, by the Rev. E. Devoe, Mr. Richard Rehling to Miss Hannah Sutherland, all of Ramapo.

TAYLOR—TURNER—In West Waterville, Me., on Sunday evening, Feb. 1, by the Rev. A. H. Morrell, Mr. Nathan W. Taylor of Sidney, to Miss Emma C., only daughter of the Rev. E. Turner of Augusta.

TUPPER—TILESTON—In Boston, on Wednesday, Feb. 4, by the Rev. Dr. Gannett, William Vaughan Tupper of Brooklyn, to Maria Therese Tileston, youngest daughter of Thos. Tileston of Boston. No cards.

WALDRON—STARK—On Thursday evening, Jan. 1, A. D. 1863, at the residence of the bride's father, by the Rev. G. H. Pool, Mr. De Lacy Waldron to Miss Angeline Stark, all of Kingston, Delaware County, Ohio.

DIED.

BOWNE—At Flushing, on Sixth-day evening, Ann Bowne, in the 76th year of her age.

BROWN—At Elizabeth, N. J., on Tuesday, Feb. 3, Rachel C. Brown, widow of the late Brittain M. Brown, aged 64 years.

CLARK—At Fort Delaware, on Friday, Jan. 30, Edwin, only son of Lieut. Gilbert S. and the late Seraphene L. Clark, aged 5 years, 8 months and 6 days.

EDMONDS—At Bronxville, Westchester County, on Saturday, Feb. 7, after a brief illness, Francis W. Edmonds, in the 67th year of his age.

FOX—At Lafayette, Tenn., on Saturday, Jan. 24, William S. Fox, of the 15th Illinois Regiment, second son of John S. Fox, Jersey City, aged 27 years.

FROST—At his residence, Golden Bridge, Westchester County, N. Y., on Thursday evening, Feb. 5, Oren P. Frost, in the 57th year of his age.

HAZEN—In Mount Vernon, Westchester County, on Friday, Feb. 6, Sarah Louise, second daughter of Calvin T. and Clara B. Hazen, aged 2 years and 22 days.

HARE—On David's Island, New-York, on Thursday, Feb. 5, 1863, of cholera morbus, George Robinson Hare, aged 22 years and 8 months.

Albany and Troy papers please copy.

HODGKINSON—In Washington, D. C., on Tuesday, Jan. 27, of wounds received at the battle of Fredericksburg, Corp. Worthington Hodgkinson, jr., of Company A, 9th Regiment, N. Y. S. M., aged 21 years.

HALL—At Mount Kisco, Westchester County, on Sunday, Feb. 1, Nancy, wife of I. Fletcher Hall, aged 26 years, 4 months and 4 days.

HIBBERD—Killed, at the explosion off Galveston, Texas, Rodolphus Clinton Hibberd, Boatswain's Mate of the U. S. steamer Westfield, in the 26th year of his age.

JEFTS—At Chester, Vt., on Sunday, Jan. 18, of consumption, contracted in the Peninsular campaign, Byron Jefts, of the 6th Regiment Vt. Vol., aged 20 years and 9 months.

JAKWAY—On Monday, Dec. 10, in a regimental hospital, near Falmouth, Va., Dea. G. W. Jakway, in the 39th year of his age.

Having a large family depending upon him, he hesitated to enter the ranks of the army until the last call of volunteers in August, when he hesitated no longer. Both as a soldier of the cross and his country, he was among the most faithful. He has left a widow and five children dependent on the mercy of the people in Litchfield, Bradford County, Pa.

LOBDELL—In Warren, Litchfield County, Conn., very suddenly, on Wednesday morning, Jan. 28, Francis Evarts, twin son of the Rev. Francis Lobdell, aged 4 months.

METCALF—In Tremont, Westchester County, on Wednesday, Feb. 4, John O. Metcalf, aged 63 years.

Maine and California papers please copy.

PARKER—At Perth Amboy, on Sunday, Feb. 1, Catherine Morris Ogden, wife of the Hon. James Parker, in the 83d year of her age.

PHRANER—At Jamaica, L. I., on Tuesday, Feb. 3, Gaspar Phraner, aged 74 years.

RANDOLPH—At Philadelphia, on Thursday evening, Feb. 5, Eliza Fitz Randolph, in the 72d year of her age.

RUSS—On Saturday, Jan. 31, 1862, at Halifax, N. S., in the 42d year of his age, Horace P. Russ, late of this city, and for some time a resident in California.

SOUTHMAYD—In Middletown, Conn., on Saturday, Jan. 31, George Southmayd, formerly of this city.

TOWNE—At Freetown, Sierra Leone, on Sunday, Dec. 21, of congestion of the brain, John Henry Towne of Cambridge, Mass., aged 40 years and 11 months.

Those of our subscribers who send money by express will please prepay the express-charges.

NEW-YORK CATTLE MARKET.

REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING TUESDAY, Feb. 10, 1863.

TOTAL RECEIPTS OF CATTLE OF ALL KINDS FOR THE WEEK.

According to the reports from the several market-places in the city, there have been received this week:

	Beeves.	Cows.	Veals.	Sheep and Lambs.	Swine.	Total.
At Allerton's, 44th-st.	4,611	20	240	[illegible]	....	....
At Browning's, 6th-st.	451	37	43	1,503	....	....
At O'Brien's, 6th-st.	37	42	28	2,025	....	....
At Chamberlin's, R.-st.	37	21	15	1,066	....	....
Sent direct to butchers	400	....	....	....	....	....
Sold to butchers, at Bergen	250	..	..	....	....	....
Total	5,986	120	326	4,594	21,271	32,637
Total previous week	4,640	104	348	5,305	31,040	41,437
Av. No. P wk. last yr.	4,513	101	574	9,133	21,664	30,060

BEEVES FROM DIFFERENT STATES.

A. M. Allerton & Co., proprietors of the Washington Drove Yards, Forty-fourth street, report the Cattle in market from the following States:

New-York	799	Illinois	2,240
Pennsylvania	33	Kentucky	138
Ohio	651	Iowa	64
Indiana	245	Michigan	634

STOCK BY RAILROADS, ETC.

They also report Beeves and other stock received by railroads, &c., as follows:

	Beeves.	Cows.	Veals.	Sheep and Lambs.	Swine.
By the Erie Railroad	1,699	....	....	....	1,669
Hudson River Railroad	2,341	....	....	....	15,052
Harlem Railroad	1,174	20	240	370	....
Cam. & Amb. Railroad	..	....	....	....	....
By Hudson River Boats	..	....	....	....	....
On foot	39	....	....	....	....
New-Jersey Central R.R.	160	....	....	....	4,549

The New-York and Erie Railroad makes the following report of transportation of stock for the week ending this day:

Cattle	1,830	Horses	96
Hogs	2,950	Poultry (cars)	2
Sheep	[illegible]		

BEEF CATTLE.

Number reported for this market at Forty-fourth street, 4,500.

The prices to-day are quoted as follows:

First quality	9½@10	Ordinary	6½@8
Medium	8 @ 9		

Some extra good Beeves may be quoted at 10½@11½c.

The general average of the market at 8½c.

The most of the sales range from 8c. to 10c.

Prices per head and per pound, of different weights, will be found in accounts of sales of sundry droves.

Total number of Beeves received in the city this week, 5,986.

This is 1,346 head more than last week, and 1,463 head more than the average of last year. The average number at each Wednesday market last year was 4,032 head, while the number to-day being 4,200 shows 248 head more than the average, and 727 head more than this day week.

The following droves are in market this week:

[illegible]

[illegible]

Grain, Provisions, and other Markets.

[illegible]

N. Y. Wholesale Prices of Country Produce.

[illegible]

Sewing-Machines.

WHEELER & WILSON'S SEWING-MACHINES, [illegible]

[illegible]

Miscellaneous.

FAMILY DYE COLORS. TWENTY-TWO DIFFERENT COLORS. [illegible]

[illegible]

New Publications.

[illegible]

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